

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Freeze damaged plants can be pruned back but it is often best to wait until the border between killed and live wood is clearly defined- green wood vs brown wood. There is also sometimes an advantage to the plant in terms of further freezes to retain the frozen wood to provide some cover for the wood that is still alive. If you are encouraging bird populations in your landscape, retaining frozen stems until February provides important cover for them.
- If you want to maximize vegetable production and bloom production, don't underestimate the winter plants need for water and nutrients. Prepare the planting area with 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of "winterizer" or slow release lawn fertilizer and re fertilize every 3to 4 weeks. Irrigate if the soil dries to 1 inch.
- If your lawn is not a tight sod because of shade and shallow soil, and the weeds such as horse herb and rescue grass move in, consider mowing them every 2 weeks. The resultant "lawn" will be attractive and sustainable.
- Consider planting bluebonnet transplants in containers or the raised bed as an attractive part of the landscape. They also stimulate admiration and discussion from your visitors.