

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- The tall carrot like weeds with white flower clusters are called beggar's lice because of the sticky seed they produce. Especially if you have pets it is worth the effort to pull the individual plants and discard them in the compost pile. Cutting them down with the string mower is the next best strategy. Taking the action will reduce the amount of discomfort they cause to your pets.
- Gardeners are seeing painted buntings, robins, orioles, and even grosbeaks at their weed patches, bird feeders, loquat trees and water sources. It is late to plant a food source for the migrating birds, but you can rig up a bird bath with a drip source quickly and easily. They will find and use it.
- It is a good time to plant peppers, cucumbers, okra and summer squash in the vegetable garden. Consider replacing summer squash with tatum squash if you have had problems with squash vine borers. The tatum is easy to grow and can be used in the same recipes.
- The snapdragons in flower beds are dying due to the fungal disease, rust. Replace them with zinnias for colorful summer displays, cut flower sources, and nectar plants for butterflies and hummingbirds. Zinnias can be planted by seed or transplants. I recommend the Dreamland hybrid, the California Giant heirloom, and the Cactus heirloom.