

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Zinnias can be deadheaded to encourage more bloom, or they can be allowed to go to seed. A good strategy is to allow some to go to seed. The seed eating birds like cardinals and lesser goldfinches will appreciate it and you will have new blooms for cut flowers and nectar sources for butterflies.
- Pepper transplants, okra seed, and southern pea seed can still be planted in the vegetable garden. Peppers do especially well in containers.
- If relatively newly planted shrubs and trees wilt even if you are irrigating with a lawn sprinkler, try watering at the base of the plant. It takes awhile for plants to develop a root system in the heat. Water needs to be made available to the existing root ball.
- If you have deer in your neighborhood, planting the Cora Vinca for summer bloom is a good plan. The variety is resistant to aerial phytophthora and deer browsing. Vinca are also drought tolerant.