

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- After significant rainfall it is useful to apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch over the root system of newly planted trees, shrubs and flowers. The mulch reduces evaporation from the soil and reduces weed growth.
- Avoid using a string mower near the trunk of newly planted trees. The string can girdle the tree trunk to permanently injure the vascular system and reduce growth rate. Deer rubbing their antlers on the trunk can do the same. Visit [plantanswers.com](http://plantanswers.com) for information on protecting newly planted trees from deer.
- Use moss roses and/or purslane for containers such as hanging baskets in full sun. The low growing plants have succulent like leaves and brightly colored flowers that are in bloom from morning to early evening. Bloom colors include red, orange, white, yellow, pink, and lavender.
- If your summer squash is destroyed by squash vine borers replace it with tatum squash. The round fruits taste the same as summer squash; the plants are very productive, and they are not susceptible to borer damage.