

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Larkspurs that naturalize in your flower beds can be limited to a designated area by pulling the larkspur seedlings outside the area like they are weeds. They can also be transplanted. Left to themselves, naturalized larkspurs will grow over snapdragons and other desirable winter color plants.
- To reduce squirrel dominance of your bird feeding, use seed and suet flavored with hot pepper and use safflower seed. Birds like the food options but squirrels do not.
- Apply dormant oil to your fruit tree trunks and stems to reduce the population of scale that are sucking plant juices from the plant. Apply the diluted material as required by the label instructions during a period when temps stay above 45 degrees for 48 hours.
- The freezes killed most tomato, pepper, eggplant, and okra plants. When you pull them watch for nematode nodules. Plants with nematodes should be bagged and thrown in the garbage rather than be composted. Note the area of the infestation in the garden and only plant nematode resistant tomato varieties, onions, corn and other nematode resistant plants in the area.