

## Express News Gardening Tasks

Distribute 05-07-2020

Most of the wildflowers have quit blooming and are maturing their seed, let them finish the process. Some exceptions are beebalm, sunflower, *Salvia coccinea*, verbena and firewheel. Make a note which wildflowers bloom late so you plant them for next year. Also spread cosmos, zinnia, and Laura Bush petunia seed to provide more summer naturalized flowers.

As we move into the dry hot summer water provided by bird baths fill an important role. In addition to birds and squirrels, the European and native bees utilize the water. Place the bird baths in a location you can observe the action.

Fertilize the lawn with a slow release lawn fertilizer such as 19-5-9. The best timing to apply a preemergent herbicide to prevent the summer weeds such as crabgrass and sand burs was about March 1. Put it on your calendar for next year.

Plant eggplant by transplant in the vegetable garden. Okra can be planted by seed. Plant southern peas by seed to harvest as snap beans.