

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- It is time to remove the spring tomato plants. If they are left in place, they may produce a few more tomatoes but they are just as likely to produce spider mites and fungal diseases. If they are infested with spider mites carefully place the plants in a garbage sack rather than the compost pile. Plant the fall crop after mid-July.
- Harvest any remaining potatoes that are in the ground. They store relatively well in the ground but may begin to rot if the rains start or even if you are irrigating the rest of the garden. They are great prepared as boiled or roasted new potatoes.
- As the hummingbirds complete their nesting cycle, they will become less territorial and you should experience more visitors to your sugar water feeders. If you are just beginning to feed the hummingbirds mix the feeder solution at one-part sugar and 4 parts water by volume. Rinse and refill the feeder every week. Place the old sugar water in a saucepan for the bees and butterflies.
- Use vinca, zinnias, moss roses, cosmos, or purslane for color in the summer sun. Wax leaf begonias, pentas, caladium, and coleus perform well in the shade.