

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- It is time to harvest all the near full-size tomatoes on your plants and pull the plants from the garden. If spring planted tomatoes are left in place into July, expect them to produce more spider mites and diseased leaves than fruit. Removing the spring plants allows room to plant the fall crop after mid-July.
- If your lantana were infested by lacebugs last summer and quit blooming, apply a systemic insecticide such as acephate or Bayer systemic insecticide to prevent bloom loss as a result of their sucking activity.
- Allow mature zinnias to drop seed to produce a continuous cycle of new blooms for cut flowers and as a nectar source for butterflies and other pollinators. Cardinals, lesser goldfinches and other seed-eating birds will also appreciate access to the seed.
- The black speckles on your lemons and other citrus are caused by young grackles pecking on the fruit. The pecks mar the fruit appearance but do not usually penetrate the peeling. The fruit can be used.