

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Test your soil with a shovel, if it is compacted, rent an aerator and after aeration add compost to improve the lawns performance. The job can also be done by a lawn care company.
- If you purchase tomatoes such as the new Rodeo tomato, CM 1823 now, it is too cold to plant them in the garden soil until April 1. "Pot them up" in a 1gallon plastic container filled with potting mix and fertilized with Osmocote. Place the container in the sun out of the wind. If temps of 40 degrees or less are forecast move the plants inside.
- Prune your roses to open up the middles and remove dead wood. Fertilize with slow release lawn fertilizer to support spring growth. Tough modern roses and old-fashioned roses do not need a spray program but hybrid tea roses do best with a weekly insect and fungus spray.
- Stay ahead of winter weeds by mowing the lawn every 2 weeks and pull weeds such as thistle and bedstraw from the shrub border. Bedstraw will quickly cover an area but can be raked up or controlled with "Weed-Free Zone". Follow label instructions.