Express News Gardening Tasks

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* It is time to pull your spring tomato plants to make room for the transplants for fall. Plant Roma Surprise, Surefire, Lavaca, BHN 968, Tycoon, Red Deuce and heat-setting varieties like Solar Fire now to beat the cold weather.
* Spread the seed from dead-headed zinnias around the garden for an attractive regrowth that will provide nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies. Cosmos and sunflowers will reseed in vacant lots outside the garden to provide nectar and seeds for lesser goldfinches, cardinals and other seedeaters.
* Keep the okra harvested to insure that the plants continue to produce tender new pods for the table. If fire ants become a problem on the plants wash the ants off with a hose spray when you harvest. Fire ant products with Spinosad are labeled for the vegetable garden.
* Bermuda grass, zoysia and buffalo grass can be allowed to go dormant if you want to reduce your water bills and do not mind a temporarily brown lawn.