Express News Gardening Tasks

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* Prevent oak wilt in your neighborhood by painting all wounds on your oak trees. Regular pruning paint or even latex paint works if it is applied immediately after the wounds are made. Firewood is also a potential infection source. If you are unsure if the firewood offered is red oak, only accept wood that is dry and checked from curing for a summer. Visit the Texas Forest Service Oak Wilt website for more information.
* Limit lawn watering to every 3 weeks of dry weather. If you irrigate, apply the water in the morning to reduce the chance of brown patch fungus. The disease results when the soil is soggy and/or the foliage goes into the night with water on the blades.
* Onion plants are available at area nurseries. Prepare the soil by incorporating 4 cups of slow-release lawn fertilizer over every 100 sq. ft. of bed. Side dress the row every 3 wks. after planting. The same side dressing with slow release lawn fertilizer will help maximize the production by greens crops like broccoli and chard.
* Plant pansies, snapdragons, dianthus, calendula, alyssum, and stocks in the sun for winter color. In the shade use cyclamen and primula transplants.