



HOME & GARDEN

HOME AND GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER • 12005 HOMEWOOD ROAD • ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

Vegetables and Herbs Tips - December 2008

Culture

- Be sure to request catalogs from seed companies you might like to patronize next spring. Review garden notes from this past season as you sketch out next year's garden plan.
- Beets, spinach, lettuce, broccoli raab and other cool-season greens that have already germinated in the fall garden should be protected with a cold frame, plastic sheeting or floating row cover. Be sure to vent your cold frame or plastic cover on sunny days to prevent heat build-up.
- Carrots, parsnips and turnips can be over-wintered by covering the bed with a deep straw or leaf mulch. Pull these root crops through the winter as needed.
- It's a good time to check the germination rate of old, questionable seed. Place 20 seeds between moistened paper towels, roll up the towel and place it in a plastic bread bag. Put the bag on top of the refrigerator or other warm location and check after 5-7 days to see what percentage has germinated. Discard seed lots with poor germination.
- Keep garden beds covered with shredded leaves to minimize the risk of soil erosion and nutrient run-off.

Herbs

- Dried herbs should be stored in a cool, dark location away from the stove. Herb plants inside the house should be kept in full, direct sunlight or given 14 hours of fluorescent lighting each day. Keep plants away from drafts and heat registers.

Have a pest or gardening question?
Call The Home and Garden Information Center
1-800-342-2507
www.hgic.umd.edu

Educating People To Help Themselves

Local Governments - U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Personnel/Human Relations, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.