



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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August Tips

HERBS

by Diane Relf, Extension Specialist, Environmental Horticulture

- Savory can be used as a salt substitute in vegetable dishes.
- Comfrey makes a great addition to the compost pile. Its succulent, green leaves are rich in nitrogen that aids in the breakdown of dry material in the compost pile.
- One way to preserve herbs is to freeze them in water. Chop the herbs into an ice-cube tray, cover them with water, and freeze. Store the cubes in plastic bags in the freezer. Add these handy cubes as you prepare soup or other dishes.
- Many herbs self sow if the flowers are not removed. Dill and sage produce seeds that fall around the parent plant and come up as volunteers the following spring.
- Herbs can still be harvested and used for a multitude of purposes.

INTERIOR GARDENING

by Diane Relf, Extension Specialist, Environmental Horticulture

- To keep your cat out of your potted plants generously sprinkle the soil with pepper. It works, without banning either cat or plants.
- Inspect your house plants for signs of insect damage. Pest control is much easier and safer while the plants are outside for the summer than after you bring them in this fall.
- Look over the house plants that are summering outdoors to see that they are not suffering from lack of water.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

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- A mouse trap attached to the wall of the tool shed can be a glove trap. Gloves hung there will dry quickly and can be easily found.
- Check hose connections, pipes, and valves for water leaks. Even a small dribble can waste hundreds of gallons of water in a day.
- Use an old, metal tire rim for hanging your garden hose. Paint it the same color as your house or shed, and fasten it to the side of a building near the spigot.
- Go over all the cold frame sashes and greenhouse glazing, replace broken glass, putty, and repaint.
- If you do not have a cold frame, build one now.

Monthly Tips have been prepared since 1986 by various staff of the Office of Consumer Horticulture including Ellen Bennett, Michelle Buckstrup, Susan Day, Susan DeBolt, Sharon Dendy, Kate Dobbs, Sheri Dom, David Gravell, Virginia Nathan, Jenny Shuster, Ellen Silva, and Ruth Sorenson. Resource material for the development of this information includes the Virginia Master Gardener Handbook; Extension Publications and newsletters from VCE, numerous other states, and the USDA; and an extensive library of over 900 books, magazines and journals. Project funded by The Virginia Gardener Newsletter subscription fees. Diane Relf, Project Director and Content Specialist.

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