



Home, Health & Garden Line®

Greetings!

Autumn's apples, hay rides, and colorful falling leaves are upon us once again. And that means colder weather is right around the corner. It's time to get your yard and gardens settled in for their long winter's nap. It's also time to get ready for the rascally rodents that'll be roamin' around looking for goodies in your garbage cans. And before you know it, Thanksgiving will be here, and it's never too soon to plan the perfect feast. So check out these timely tips for a fantastic fall and a happy holiday season!

In the News...

Jerry Baker

Leave Those Seeds for the Birds!

Did you know that while most flowers should be cut back in fall, there are some with seed heads that can be left for late winter or spring cleanup? Yep. And the seeds from these annuals and perennials alike can provide much-needed food for our fine-feathered friends during the cold winter months. Seeds from annuals like cosmos, marigolds, bachelor's buttons, asters, coreopsis, zinnias and, of course, sunflowers, will attract a bevy of beautiful birds to your backyard. And perennials like large sedum, goldenrod, and coneflowers are also bird-feeding favorites. So why not put off for today what you can do in the spring? That way, you'll enjoy watching families of finches, swarms of sparrows, and crowds of chickadees enjoying the seeds you've left for them.

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

—Albert Camus

This Season's Hot Topic:

Batten Down the Hatches!

Another winter is waiting in the wings, folks. So now's the time to prepare your lawn and gardens for the cold, dreary season. Here's how to do it with these timely tips:

- Make sure that all evergreens are kept well-watered, right up until the time the ground freezes.
- Float a couple of short logs on the water surface of your garden pond to save the walls from ice pressure cracks.
- As soon as the ground freezes solid, throw a layer of hay over your rock garden to stabilize the soil temperature and protect your tender plants.
- Enclose any small shrubs that are not winter hardy in a wire netting “cage” filled with oak leaves.
- Surround the trunks of young fruit trees with wire mesh to keep rabbits from nibbling on the bark.
- Lift and divide mums after they bloom. Then, pot up a few of the divisions and set ‘em in a cold frame.
- Dethatch your grass before the weather gets too cold. A good rule of thumb is to dethatch when the layer is more than ¾ inch thick. A dethatching rake will take care of a small lawn, but larger areas are best dealt with by using a power rake. Or, try my **Thatch Control Tonic**.

Thatch Control Tonic

- 1 can of beer
- 1 cup of ammonia
- 1 cup of dishwashing liquid
- 1 cup of regular cola (not diet)

Mix all of the ingredients together in a bucket, then apply to your lawn with a 20-gallon hose-end sprayer to the point of run-off.



Legend has it that around 2700 B.C., a Chinese emperor was sitting under a tea bush drinking hot water. Some tea leaves fell into his cup, he liked what he tasted, and bingo—a beverage made from unfermented, a.k.a. green, tea leaves was born.





Check out our gallery of DIY videos at www.jerrybaker.com/how-to-videos to get the most out of your hose-end sprayers, aerating lawn sandals, and more!

Banish Rubbish Raiders

The growing season may be over, but the neighborhood critters are still lurking about, and they're still mighty hungry. They're looking for grub any place they can find it. And guess what? one of their favorite treats is garbage—your garbage!

Here's a few tips to help you keep your garbage in the can and not on the sidewalk:

- Secure your garbage can lids, and keep all pet food inside. Put hot peppers or mothballs in your garbage cans to disguise the smell, so four-legged fiends won't go looking for a feast.
- Spray the cans with a mixture of 2 tbsp. of ammonia, 2 tbsp. of dishwashing liquid, 2 tbsp. of cayenne pepper, and 1 quart of warm water mixed in a hand-held sprayer.
- Drape a towel that's been soaked in ammonia over the cans.

Follow these tips, or you might end up with a few unwanted holiday guests. And by keeping them away now, they'll be less likely to even try coming around next year.



ANOTHER GREAT IDEA!

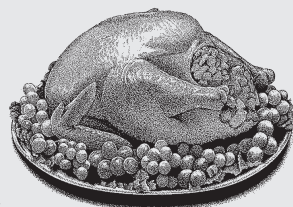
SUPER SCRAPER FOR BAKERS

Do you like to bake your own bread, rolls, and pastries? If so, then you know what a sticky mess the dough leaves on your countertop or pastry board. But don't waste your money on a fancy dough scraper from a kitchen-supply store. Instead, clean it all up with a plastic ice scraper you can get at any dollar store. It'll remove those gloppy blobs without damaging your countertop.

Turkey Day Tips

There's nothing that makes your mouth water as much as a Thanksgiving feast. But, oh, the preparation! Here's some terrific "turkey tips" to make preparin' the feast fun:

- Instead of shopping the day before Thanksgiving, do it ahead of time. Then each night, slice, dice, or prepare one thing—so, when the big day arrives, your food will be good 'n ready for cookin'.
- If you're preparing any casseroles the day before, cover them tightly, write the cooking instructions on a piece of paper, and attach them to the top of the container, then when it is time to pop them in the oven, it'll be easy as pie.
- You'll serve the moistest turkey in town if your roast it upside down. All those delicious juices will flow down in the meat, instead of into the bottom of the pan. Turn it right side up for the last hour of cooking, and you'll end up with a perfectly golden, super-moist bird.
- For healthier broth and gravy, drop some ice cubes into the stock after the turkey is done and has been removed from the heat. The fat will cling to the ice cubes, and you can just scoop it out with a spoon.



That's not all, folks!

Check out www.jerrybaker.com for fantastic features like:

- ▶ Jerry's Blog with what's new in gardening, health care, and household hints.
- ▶ Critter Control solutions for battling bugs and thugs in your home and garden.
- ▶ How-to videos to guide you through the growing season.
- ▶ Jerry's favorite tips and tonics—you're just a click away from a super solution!