



**HOME AND GARDEN  
INFORMATION CENTER**  
University of Maryland Extension

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## **Vegetable and Herb Tips**

### **Vegetables**

- This is a good time to incorporate organic matter into your garden beds. Composted animal manure such as horse or cow manure is excellent for improving garden soil. Now is the best time of the year to apply it to the garden. Keep garden beds covered with shredded leaves to minimize the risk of soil erosion and nutrient run-off.
- Beets, spinach, lettuce, broccoli, 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.

### **Herbs**

- Herbs brought indoors for fall and winter should be located where they will receive strong direct sunlight. Supplemental fluorescent light (cool white bulbs or grow lights) will probably be necessary as well. Keep lights on for 14-16 hours each day. Keep herb plants away from drafts and heat sources and mist them daily.
- Remove all dead and weak herb plants from the garden. Dried herbs should be stored in a cool, dark location away from the stove

**Do you have a plant or insect pest question?  
Call the Home and Garden Information Center  
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