

Farm Calendar

Tips on growing geraniums indoors

Now is the time

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15 per cent loss in germination.

As to storage, soybean seed should be stored in a cool dry place. And finally, the soybean seed that you plan to seed next spring should be tested for germination. You can send a one pound sample to the Department of Agriculture Building in Harrisburg, Pa. for this test. There is a small service charge, but it's well worth the money.

To Be Thinking About Firewood

A lot of farmers will be attempting to burn wood this winter to help in conserving on expensive home heating fuels. This is the time to be cutting your winter wood supply. In order to obtain the highest efficiency from wood, it should be dried under natural conditions to a moisture content of 15 to 25 per cent.

A tree, when it's first cut, will have about equal parts of wood and water. If you attempt to burn this high moisture or green wood, a lot of the heat will be used to evaporate the moisture. This will result in slow burning and heavy deposits of wood tars (soot) on the chimney walls. This condition can lead to the danger of chimney fires.

The green wood should be cut to the length with which it will be used, normally 16 to 18 inches, and preferably split for quick drying. Pile the wood on raised supports so air can reach each end, and locate the pile so that it has maximum exposure to the sun.

To Protect Trees and Shrubs for Winter

Your trees and shrubs can get through the winter, but they can do it better with a little help from you. Here's what you can do to help save some of your valued trees and shrubs.

Thin-barked trees can be damaged by sunscald in the winter. That's why it's a good idea to wrap the trunks of such trees as sugar maple, tulip tree, American linden, flowering dogwood, and plum. You can wrap them now, but be sure to take the wrapping off late next spring.

It's best to use commercial tree wrapping, starting at ground level and working up the tree, overlapping every half-inch. Tie the wrap with twine but be careful not to tie it too tight.

Smaller ornamental plants can be mulched, but don't do this until there have been several hard freezes. Good clean wheat straw, leaves, shredded bark or peat moss are all good for mulching. Apply four to six inches over the root areas.



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meets at 8 p.m. in the County Extension office. Federal Land Bank and Production Credit dinner, Plain and Fancy Farm, Bird-in-Hand, Pa. 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 4
Schuylkill County DHIA directors meet at the Extension office, 8 p.m. York County Farm Women County convention, St. Matthew Church, 10 a.m. Cumberland County annual Holstein and DHIA banquet, Hickorytown United Methodist Church, Hickorytown. 6:45 p.m.

Farm-City Week banquet, 7 p.m. Yorktowne Hotel, York.

Friday, Nov. 5
Annual 4-H dairy and beef achievement dinner and program for Hunterdon County, N.J. Stanton Grange Hall, 7:30 p.m. Berks County DHIA annual meeting, Bernville Grange

Saturday, Nov. 6
Annual meeting of the Hunterdon County, N.J. board of agriculture, Quakertown Firehouse. Berks County Baby Beef Banquet, 7:30 p.m. at the Fleetwood Grange Hall. Deadline for purchasing tickets for the Lancaster County Holstein banquet, to be held Nov. 9 at Willow Valley Restaurant.

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. -Unfortunately, it is difficult to store geraniums through the winter in the warm, dry rooms of modern-day homes. The ideal cool, damp cellars with dirt floors exist no longer. If saving this summer's geraniums is a must, the best approach is to take cuttings. However, there is another approach that can be tried although it is not usually as successful. Dig the entire plant now. Prune

the tops and roots to match and pot-up in a 6-8" diameter container with drainage holes in the bottom. For the next week or 10 days, sink the potted geranium partially into the ground under a high-pruned shade tree. This will help to condition the plant when it is moved indoors to reduced light intensity. Once brought inside,

place the plants in a bright, sunny window (south, east or west) in a room having cool temperatures (50-55 F. at night) and apply liquid fertilizers at half strength every five to six weeks. When it comes time to put the geraniums out again next season, they can be used effectively in the garden or in outdoor containers.

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