

**Seeding,
Weeding
and mulch
more**

For the avid gardener

from the addition of organic matter such as sphagnum peat moss, compost or decomposed manure, spread 2- to 4 inches over the soil and blended in thoroughly. An all-purpose fertilizer such as 10-10-10 should be incorporated at the same time, applied at a rate of 2- to 3 pounds per 100 square feet.

PLANTING - The garden is now ready to receive flower and vegetable transplants. These bedding plants make gardening easy, giving you a headstart on the season and allowing you to plant exactly what you want where you want it. "Tender" types of flowers and vegetables such as marigolds, petunias, tomatoes and eggplant should not be planted until after all

danger of frost has past and the ground is warm. Remember when buying annuals that they should not necessarily be in bloom; in fact, some grow better if planted when all green.

Bedding plants from a greenhouse need to be "hardened off", or toughened up before they are planted. Set them outside in a warm, protected area for about a week and bring them back indoors at night if frost or chilly air is expected.

Before planting, water both the ground and the bedding plants. Dig a planting hole deeper and wider than the root ball and, after carefully removing the plant from the pack, fill in around the roots

with soil while holding the plant at the same depth it had grown before (tomatoes and cabbage crops should be planted deeper). If roots are tight at the bottom, gently loosen them with your fingers. Firm the soil and water thoroughly. It's best to plant late in the afternoon or on a cloudy day to prevent transplanting shock and to shade the new plants from sun and wind for a few days after planting.

WATER - Water deeply so the soil is moist about three inches deep, about once a week if it doesn't rain. Frequent, light waterings encourage shallow roots and poor growth.

Tips for Good Gardening

With so many reasons to garden, from brightening the home landscape with flowers to providing your family with fresh food, there's no reason to feel anything less than confident about your anticipated success. However, you will need to do a few things the right way at the right time if you want to boast of your accomplishments. The following step-by-step guide will provide you with the basics necessary whether you're a first-time gardener or a veteran who could use a "refresher".

SUN - Choose plants to fit your conditions. Most vegetables need full sun for six hours per day, although leafy vegetables, like lettuce, require a little less. Most annuals also prefer full sun, although some, like impatiens and begonias, are happy in a shaded spot.

SOIL - Good drainage is a most important aspect of the soil; for best growth of flowers or vegetables, the soil should also be enriched with organic matter and of the right pH (6.0-7.0 in most cases). Have a soil test to be sure. If tree and shrub roots compete with the garden or the site is otherwise a problem, consider gardening in raised beds.

SOIL PREPARATION - Before doing any planting in spring, check for soil moisture. With freshly dug soil, make a ball in your fist. If it sticks together, it's too soon to work the soil; wait until a tight ball of soil crumbles easily. Dry, hard soil should be watered thoroughly and allowed to dry to a point where it passes the crumble test.

With a pitchfork or spade, dig down 6- to 8 inches into the soil, lifting and turning it and breaking up clumps. Remove any debris such as rocks, stones or twigs at this time also. Most soils benefit

Md. offers seed directory

ANNAPOLIS, MD. — "If ever there was a year for farmers to worry over seed quality, this is it!" That's the uniform opinion of seed and agronomy experts when it comes to the 1984 planting season in Maryland.

The same drought and rough growing conditions that plagued farmers in Maryland and across the country were also tough on production of the seed supplies which are now coming to market for the 1984 planting season.

Production of seed supplies was down last year and demand this year is up. These two factors are combining, as any farmer knows, to jack up seed prices.

Therefore, according to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Turf and Seed

Section, this is the year for farmers to consider the advantages of using certified seed.

Certified seed is produced under high standards throughout its cycle. These standards assure farmers that they won't be buying weed seeds, that the seed is of known and proven genetic stock and that high germination standards have been met.

To help area farmers secure supplies of locally produced certified seed, the Maryland

Department of Agriculture's Turf and Seed Section has just published a Spring 1984 "Maryland Certified Seed Directory" listing growers with soybean, hybrid corn and spring oat seed supplies.

Those wishing to obtain a copy of the Spring 1984 Certified Seed Directory may do so by contacting Dale Morris of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. His telephone number is (301) 841-5960.

Drug residue workshop set

LANCASTER — An important workshop will be held March 9 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center's to update ag business people on the legal, economic and public health concerns or drug residues in meat, milk and eggs

The session is open to feed company personnel, animal health product distributors, Ag business professionals, any point-of-sale person who is handling animal health products, medicated feeds or farm chemicals



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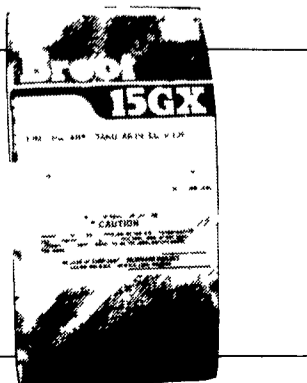
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