



Have You Heard?

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Freezer Space Can Be Valuable

By the time you stock up on hamburger, hot dogs, chicken, ice cream, frozen juices, and all of the other summer picnic supplies, the freezer space on top or along side your refrigerator vanishes in no time. Many refrigerator/freezers provide you with just enough space to store the necessities and

nothing else. If this situation exists in your home, an additional freezer might be the answer.

Food freezers come in two types — chest and upright — and in a variety of sizes. When figuring how much storage space you'll need, consider the amount of floor space available and the size of your family. The general rule provided

by the USDA is to allow six cubic feet per family member. If space is at a premium in your home, consider a compact chest freezer which can still offer the conveniences of freezer living in a minimum amount of space.

Here are some tips that can help you save time, money and work. Store items carefully... air tight packaging is the secret of success in freezing foods. Use containers and wrappings that are designed for freezing, and seal them securely to keep natural juices in, the air out. Date and label every package put into your freezer, and then use the oldest package first. Remember, that as food freezes it expands, so don't fill your containers too full. Otherwise the top may come off or, if it is glass, it may crack or break.

Even when your freezer is loaded to capacity, there is still room to tuck in a few of the little things that can build your reputation as a fabulous cook. To add flavor to your soups, stews, and gravies, make up herb bouquets (small cheese-cloth pouches filled

with herbs). Pack the bouquets in bags or wrap them in foil and freeze. When needed, use the bouquets while still frozen.

Grate orange or lemon peel, a teaspoon to a small piece of foil. Fold the peelings into a packet and freeze. Store the packets in a labeled bag and they will be handy when a recipe calls for either.

Chopped nuts and dates may be frozen too. Simply wash and slit the dates to remove the pits, then pack them into containers. For best results, leave head space, then seal and freeze.

Garlic butter can be prepared ahead of time and also stored in your freezer. Make a pound of it, freeze in individual portions on a cookie sheet and store in a polyethylene bag. A plastic ice cube tray will conveniently freeze soups, eggs, sauces, liquids, etc. When frozen, remove from tray and store in a polyethylene freezer bag and use as needed.

Energy Saving Tips For Home Freezers

If you are trying to save electricity, you may want to take advan-

tage of the following tips on freezer management which will help you in your energy savings program.

- Keep your freezer full. Take advantage of specials in frozen food. A 12 cubic foot freezer will store 36 pounds of food or 3 pounds of food for every cubic foot of storage space.

- Never overload your freezer.
- Defrost your freezer every six months or when the frost becomes one-half inch thick.

- Keep like foods together in baskets or on shelves.

- Label and date foods with masking tape.

- Rotate the frozen foods in your freezer. Store the newly purchased frozen items on the bottom shelf of the freezer — the coldest place.

- Keep a running inventory. A record of the foods in the freezer will help in menu planning and in keeping a balanced assortment on hand.

- Keep a refrigerator-freezer thermometer inside. Ideally, the freezer should maintain a temperature of zero degrees Fahrenheit.

Pinching Chrysanthemums

If your hardy garden chrysanthemums grow tall and spindly each year by the time blooms appear, you still have a little time to give them one pinch. This way they will grow shorter and bushier with an abundance of bloom by the fall.

However, advises Jeff Jabco, Delaware County Extension agricultural agent, time is getting short to do this. Generally the third to fourth week in July is the last time to do any pinching, especially if the varieties flower after the first of October. Those that bloom earlier should receive their last pinch by mid-July. Flower buds form as the days get shorter in late summer.

The above dates allow for about 4 to 5 weeks of growth before the buds set. If you desire fewer but larger blooms with longer stems, the last pinching should have been by July 4th weekend. With exhibition-types, all side shoots are removed, leaving a single terminal bud. Pinching at this time of year involves the removal of the top 1 to 3 inches of each stem to encourage additional side shoots. Next year start pinching your mums earlier. Several pinches produce even more branches on extremely floriferous plants. If you have no chrysanthemums in your garden now, buy them later this summer or fall in bud or bloom for an immediate color effect. After wintering over in the garden, they will continue to provide colorful

blooms year after year and be a desired addition to any border.

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