

**All Gardens  
Great & Small**  
by  
York Co.  
Horticultural Agent  
**Tom Becker**



**Overwintering  
Geraniums**

Don't throw away those geraniums that graced your garden or porch all season. Instead, try your hand at keeping them over winter. There are various ways of overwintering geraniums the following are four possible ways.

1. Remove existing plants from their pots or dig those in the garden before frost. Shake all the soil from the roots. Hang the plants upside down inside a plastic bag, with a few air holes in it. Add a little moist peat moss to keep the plants alive during the winter and prevent total drying. Some gardeners soak a piece of cloth in water and slide it inside the bag once a month. Watch for any signs of mildew or mold inside the bag once the moisture has been introduced.

2. Dig up your garden geraniums, cut the stems back and pot them in flower pots or wooden boxes. A bright cellar, attic, or

kitchen window or sun parlor, where the temperature is as cool as possible makes a good location for keeping them healthy until spring. Water them each week. It's best if geraniums can rest in temperatures below 60 degrees F. Keep the plants from freezing or you will kill them.

3. Store the plants in tubs filled with peat moss kept slightly damp in the basement. Add a little water now and then to keep the plants alive during the winter months. In spring as the weather warms, cut the tops back and repot the plants in a suitable soil mix and container or garden spot. Such plants may look dead, but most of them should sprout quickly once optimum growing conditions return.

4. Another method uses cuttings from the mother plant to start new ones for next year's population and plantings stock. Take slips or cuttings from the main plant and throw the old plant away. Root the cuttings in sand or

vermiculite. Then pot them in a good soil mixture and keep the started young plants over the winter. This works well if you want to use them as winter house plants, but they still need those 60 degree F temperatures.

Often by storing geraniums over the winter, the plants become leggy, scraggly and do little more than collect dust. Geraniums used to be considered a good house-plant but central heating and insulation now make most homes too warm for successful growing. Geraniums grow best in 50 to 60 degree temperatures. However, if you have an unheated room or an especially cool but sunny spot in your house, you may be able to coax a few blooms.

All geraniums need sun to bloom so put them near the windows with the most winter light. But be careful—no plant likes draft and cold temperatures. If your windows are drafty, try adding a cover of clear plastic over the inside of the window or even a protective shield of newspaper between the window and plant during especially cold weather.

Water geraniums regularly but allow the soil to dry between waterings. Average house humidity is adequate as long as there is enough fresh air. Don't be too quick to repot geraniums because they like to be somewhat pot-bound. Provide plenty of fresh air. Remove dead flowers and leaves and prune in the spring.

Pinch tips of the branches to avoid a single stem, leggy look. Pinching creates bushiness. Once new growth has begun in earnest in the spring you may want to fertilize lightly.

If the branches on you plants

are already long, supports such as stakes, trellises, or bent coat hanger wires will help your plant take on a denser look. Remove dead or diseased branches and leaves and turn the plant periodically for balanced growth.

## Dispel Chocolate Milk Myths

**SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.)**—Many opinions about chocolate milk are based on misinformation. Here are the myths explained by the latest research.

1. Myth: Flavored milks are not as nutritious as unflavored (or white) milks. **FACT**—Both milks have about the same amount of nutrients, such as protein, vitamin A, calcium and riboflavin. The difference between flavored and unflavored milks is about 60 calories. Since children 7- to 10-years-old need about 2,000 calories each day, 60 extra calories can easily fit into their total diet.

2. Myth: Chocolate milk is not a good choice as a breakfast food. **FACT**—Chocolate milk is a quick food for the "morning rush" and provides the nutrients that can give a boost to the day. A recent survey and taste test conducted for National Dairy Council among 8- to 13-year-olds found that 25 percent of kids reported having chocolate milk at breakfast at least once a week.

3. Myth: Flavored milks are

high in sugar and contribute to hyperactivity in kids. **FACT**—Chocolate milk has two fewer teaspoons of table sugar per 8-ounce serving than soda. A recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine confirmed what several other studies have shown—sugar does not cause mood swings, including hyperactivity, in children.

4. Myth: Chocolate milk has more caffeine than soft drinks. **FACT**—Soft drinks may contain up to 10 times more caffeine than chocolate milk! The amount of caffeine in chocolate milk is too small to affect most children. In fact, the amount of caffeine in chocolate milk is similar to decaffeinated drinks.

5. Myth: Chocolate milk will harm kids' teeth. **FACT**—Because chocolate milk is a beverage, it will not adhere to teeth and therefore is less likely to cause cavities than sticky foods like candy. Also, the calcium, phosphorus and cocoa in chocolate milk actually may protect teeth from decay.

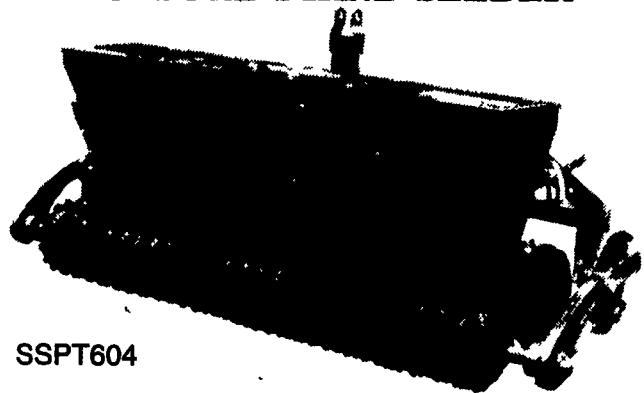
ROLLING ON...IN THE 90'S



MEETS THE CHALLENGE

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### 5' SURE STAND SEEDER

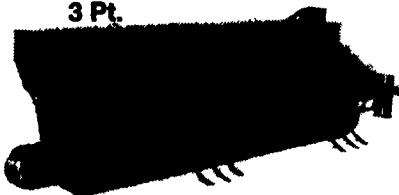


SSPT604

This 5' model has a single box with two compartments. The capacity of the front box (for chaffy seeds) is 1 1/4 bushels, the rear box (for legumes) holds 3/4 bushel. This model fits category 1 three point hitch.

### SSP10 GRASS SEEDERS

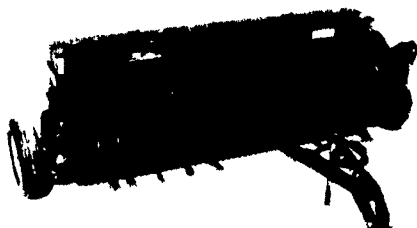
3 Pt.



Available in 3 point or pull type

**Features of the SSP10** are 4 3/8 Bu. meter box capacity, 4 3/8 brome box capacity, Standard front wheel, and a 10' rolling width. The overall width is 11'4" and approx. weight is 2018#.

### 12' SURE STAND SEEDER SS12 PULL TYPE



**Special Features of the SS12 Pull Type** are a 5 1/4 bu. meter box capacity, 5 1/4 bu. optional brome box capacity, and standard front wheel. It has a rolling width of 12'. The overall width is 15' with an approx. weight of 2547#.

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ROLLING ON...IN THE 90'S

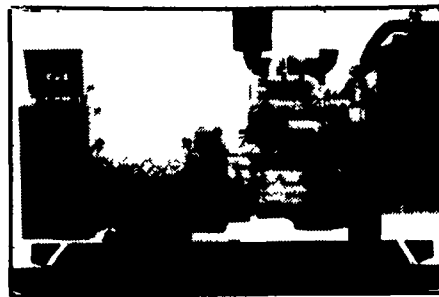


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