

Ways to Save Money in the Garden

By Bettylou Sandy

1. Keep compost piles going all through the year using kitchen scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, weeds, leaves, etc.; Turn once a week for quicker results.
2. Make your own bug sprays and animal repellants:
 - **Basic Bug Spray:** to a one-quart mister bottle
 - Fill with water
 - Add a squirt (1/4 cup) of lemon scented dish liquid
 - (Preferably NOT antibacterial)
 - **Animal repellent:** to a one-quart mister bottle
 - Add 4 oz. chili sauce or Tabasco sauce
 - Fill with water
 - Add a drop of lemon scented dish liquid
 - (Preferably NOT antibacterial)
 - **Or** sprinkle chili powder on areas, twice a week, for two weeks, for animal to deter animals
 - **Ant repellent:** cloves (ground cloves for outside, whole for inside); just sprinkle on the areas to discourage the ants
1. Save rocks, stones and bricks found in the garden for drainage solutions and other future use
2. Make drainage ditches (French Drains) at down spouts to automatically water the plants for weeks after the rain.
3. Have a rain barrel, or a series of them, at a downspout to collect water to be available to water the gardens. A drop of dish liquid will prevent the mosquitos from breeding.
4. Divide your perennials and swap with your friends for some you do not have.
5. Sell some of your extra plants at a tag sale.
6. Save the branches you prune from shrubs and trees to use for plant supports.
7. Buy spices at department stores and drug stores, rather than food stores, they are less expensive there.
8. Save old garden hoses to repair, or use for tree guides, etc.
9. Go to Tag sales. They are the best place to find tools and supplies for very little money, and they are fun too.
10. Save used glass containers with tight fitting lids for food storage, soil tests and parts storage.
11. Save cans and plastic containers for rain gages and plant starters.
12. Use cardboard egg cartons to start seeds, dry eggshells or sort parts
13. Save dried eggshells to crush and sprinkle around the plants as a slug deterrent and will provide calcium fertilizer as well
14. Use leaves from the fall for mulch under shrubs, perennial beds and on vegetable gardens in the fall to add insulation for the winter and add free fertilizer.
15. 16 Save bags of leaves, from the fall, for winter and summer composting or mulching.

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