

# Time to reflect on gardening successes, failures

Did the children in your family grow their own Halloween pumpkin?

This is a wonderful introduction to the miracle of growth - planting the seed, tending the plant, using the produce as a jack-o-lantern or pie or seeds for snacks, saving

some seeds to start the process again and finally composting the remains to return to the soil.

As we put the garden to bed, we should reflect on our successes and failures. Alan Powell wonders why his peppers grew well but produced little fruit. There are sever-

al reasons for lack of fruit. 1. Too much nitrogen fertilizer causes luxuriant foliage at the expense of the fruit. 2. Flower buds fall off if night temperatures stay too high. 3. Severe drought causes a stoppage in growth. Experts have several suggestions for a better pep-

per crop. 1. Plant two plants per hole - close proximity promotes better pollination. 2. At planting time, bury the stems to the first set of leaves to make a stronger plant. 3. Pinch off the first set of flowers to increase the later crop.



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

Karen Bundy was disappointed with her containers of flowers. Although she watered and fertilized them regularly, they never achieved a full look but remained sparse. The answer may be not enough plants. Rules for garden spacing do not apply to containers where plants should be placed side by side. Immediately after planting, the tips of all the plants should be cut back to promote side shoots to develop. This is most difficult for an amateur gardener but it is the secret of the professional grower!

Bev Marshall would like to get rid of some over zealous wild grape vines. At some point during the winter, cut the vine down at ground level (this could result in some wonderful grapevine wreaths or other crafts). Next spring, as soon as new growth shoots from the base, spray or paint the foliage with Roundup - a herbicide that will kill everything green that it touches but will not harm a mature tree if it touches only the bark. You may have to repeat this procedure several times during the season.

Martha Wusatiuk wants to know how to get her (Please see page 9)

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