



Home, Health & Garden Line®

Greetings!

The fall holidays are finally here and I can practically smell the chocolate candy, roasted turkey, and yummy baked goods! I'm looking forward to spending extra time with family and friends, and enjoying each special day. But first, I'll grab my trusty rake and make sure my lawn is in ship-shape for its long winter nap. And I won't forget about my feathered friends who stick around all winter long. I've got great ideas for helping them enjoy all the trimmings of the season, too. Yum, yum!

Jerry Baker

In the News...

Following the summer 2011 heat wave that blanketed most of the country, the global warming debate is, well, heating up. But experts are quick to point out that no *single* weather event—be it a blizzard or a period of extreme heat—can be enough to signify an adjustment in climate. One thing experts do agree on is that the trend toward extreme weather, like excessive precipitation, tornadoes, and record-breaking temps, seems to signify a global climate change.

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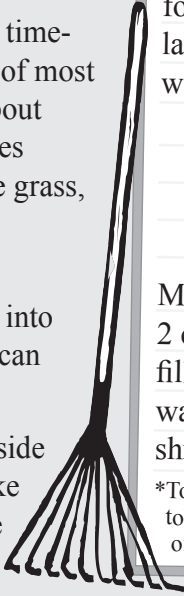
This Season's Hot Topic:

Rake It All In

The annual gathering up of fall leaves is a time-consuming job that ranks near the bottom of most folks' chore chart. But don't even think about skipping this task. Ugly piles of dead leaves block sun and moisture from getting to the grass, and make your lawn look uncared for.

Here's a few tips to make the job easier:

- Use a plastic snow shovel to push leaves into piles instead of pulling on a rake, which can strain your shoulders.
- Lay a large, empty cardboard box on its side on the lawn. With your gloved hands, rake the leaves into the box, and then drag the boxed leaves away.
- Hold a garbage can lid in each hand and clamp clumps of piled-up leaves between them. Transfer the clumps to a yard waste bag or compost pile.



If you've got a compost pile, remember that leaves make great additions. Shred 'em into nickel-size bits before tossing them on the heap to speed up the decomposition process.

Fall Clean-Up Tonic

After you've raked up the leaves, but before temps fall below 50°F, protect your lawn from snow mold, fungus, and other wintertime nasties with this excellent elixir.

- 1 cup of baby shampoo**
- 1 cup of antiseptic mouthwash**
- 1 cup of tobacco tea***
- 1 cup of chamomile tea**

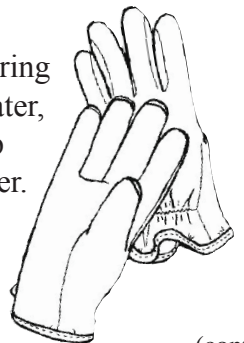
Mix the ingredients in a bucket, then pour 2 cups into a 20 gallon hose-end sprayer, filling the balance of the sprayer jar with warm water. Overspray your turf, trees, shrubs, and beds.

*To make tobacco tea, place half a handful of chewing tobacco in an old nylon stocking, and soak it in a gallon of hot water until the mixture is dark brown.

Show Your Garden Gloves Some Love

Here's a nifty backyard trick—clean your garden gloves while you're still wearing them. After you're done raking, simply lather your gloves up with soap and water, and scrub 'em together to get rid of the grime. Rinse under running water, strip them off, roll them in a towel, and give 'em a good squeeze to soak up the water.

If the gloves are leather or suede, lay them flat to dry; if they're cloth, just clip them to your clothesline. They'll dry stiff as a board, but don't worry—they'll soften up as soon as you start digging in to the next round of garden work!



(cont.)



Check out our gallery of DIY videos at www.jerrybaker.com/garden/videos.aspx to get the most out of your hose-end sprayers, aerating lawn sandals, and more!

Say “Boo!” and “Bah Humbug!” to Seasonal Stomachaches

Between piles of candy from trick-or-treating, chowing down on a traditional Thanksgiving feast, and sampling every Christmas cookie they see, your kids and grandkids can get carried away, eating too much food on fun holidays. But are you ready to help them handle the morning-after miseries?

If your little one overindulged and suffers from the “too-much-sugar” tummy ache, bring on the bland to help settle his stomach. Put easy-to-digest applesauce, a little plain rice, dry toast, or even a mild cooked vegetable on the menu.

ANOTHER GREAT IDEA!



HANDLE WITH CARE

Instead of buying an expensive liquid soap to clean your delicate fabrics, mix up a batch of this remarkable recipe. Simply combine ½ cup of powdered laundry detergent and ½ cup of borax in a saucepan with 2 cups of water. Simmer over low heat for about 10 minutes, stirring constantly (beat with a wire whisk occasionally to break up the lumps). Remove the pan from the stove and let it cool, then pour the mix into a clean plastic bottle. Use it as you would any commercial product for delicate fabrics. This gentle soap keeps practically forever, so it'll be ready whenever you need to treat your hand-washable items with TLC.

Snowstorm Seed Stash

There's nothing worse than getting caught with an empty birdseed bag when a blizzard blows in. Your bird buddies are looking to you for help, and you can't even get out of the driveway to restock the cupboard. So when the season shifts to winter, put an unusual traction-aid device in the trunk of your car: two spare bags of birdseed!

Twenty-five pounds of sunflower seed go over one of the back wheels, and 25 pounds of millet go over the other. Not only will your car handle slick roads better, but you can rest easy knowing that you have plenty of extra seed if it's needed.

Not a winter driver? Store your just-in-case supply in a covered metal trash can, and keep it for emergency use only; come spring, returning birds will appreciate the leftovers.



That's not all, folks!

Check out www.jerrybaker.com for fantastic features like:

- ▶ Jerry's Blog with what's new in gardening, home care, and household hints.
- ▶ Critter Control solutions for battling bugs and critters in your home and garden.
- ▶ How-to videos to guide you through the growing season.
- ▶ Jerry's favorite tips and tonics—you're just a click away from a super solution.
- ▶ Enter the Supermarket Secrets Contest and win a free book!