Growing, Harvesting and Preserving Your Herbs

**Herb Garden Requirements**
- Full sun (6 to 8 hours daily)
- Well-drained soil
- Under-fertilize
- Convenient location

**Herb Container Requirements**
- Clay vs plastic
- Container must be large enough
- Container must have hole in bottom for drainage
- Use sterile potting soil
- Water frequently

**Bay Laurel, Rosemary, Lavender**
- Drench container
- Allow to dry out completely
- Drench container again

**Pruning**
- Prune woody plants after flowering
- Deadhead herbaceous plants
- Cut herbaceous plants to the ground in the fall

**Oregano**
- Before flowering, cut down to the ground
- New growth will appear in 2-3 weeks
- Cut down to the ground again in the fall

**Thyme**
- No need to prune
- Naturally grows either prostrate or in a compact bush

**Preserving Your Herbs**

**Freezing**
- Chop coarsely
- With water in ice cube trays
- In plastic bags
- Do not refreeze after thawing

**Drying**
- Hang upside down in bunches
- On window screens between sawhorses or chairs
- In microwave (1-2 minutes on high)
- In oven (100°-110° for 2-3 minutes)
- In food dehydrator

**Storing Your Herbs**
- Store leaves whole to preserve flavor
- Store in tightly sealed glass jars
- Store in a cool, dry place away from sunlight, moisture, and heat.
- Properly stored, dried herbs will keep up to one year.

**Harvesting Flowers**
- Herb flowers have their most intense oil concentration and flavor when harvested after flower buds appear but before they open.
- Herb flowers harvested to dry for craft purposes should be picked just before they are fully open.

**Chamomile**
- Harvest when petals are drooping
- Use garden shears to shear flowers from the plant

**Harvesting Seeds**
- Wait until seed pods are brown or gray
- Collect and dry in paper bags

**Bay Laurel**
- Begin harvest when tree is 2’ tall.
- Leaves can be harvested any time
- Use the largest leaves

**Harvesting Leaves**
- Begin harvesting the herb when the plant has enough foliage to maintain growth.
- Up to 75% of the current season’s growth can be harvested at one time.
- Harvest before they flower or deadhead to prevent flowering.
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Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AdviceFromTheHerbLady
Pinterest: http://www.pinterest.com/herbladyadvice/

Places to see herbs and herb gardens:

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden
150 Eastern Parkway
990 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225
Website: http://www.bbg.org/

The Cloisters
99 Margaret Corbin Drive
New York, NY 10040
Website: http://www.metmuseum.org/visit/visit-the-cloisters

The EARTH Center
42 Riva Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
Website: http://co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/

Longwood Gardens
1001 Longwood Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Website: http://longwoodgardens.org/

National Herb Garden
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-1958
Website: http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/herb.html

The New York Botanical Garden
2900 Southern Boulevard
Bronx, NY 10458
Website: http://www.nybg.org/

Rodale Institute
611 Siegfriedale Road
Kutztown, PA 19530
Website: http://rodaleinstitute.org/

Rutgers Gardens
112 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Website: http://rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/

Wave Hill
675 W 252nd Street
New York, NY 10471
Website: http://www.wavehill.org/

Well Sweep Herb Farm
205 Mt Bethel Road
Port Murray, NJ 07865
Website: http://www.wellsweep.com/

Places to buy herbs:

Well Sweep Herb Farm
205 Mt Bethel Road
Port Murray, NJ 07865
Website: http://www.wellsweep.com/

Rutgers Gardens
112 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Spring Flower Fair: Mother’s Day Weekend, Members Only Preview on Thursday evening
Website: http://rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/springflowerfair.html