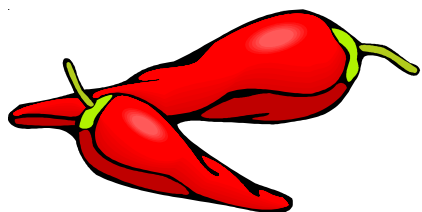


# TRICKS OF THE TRADE

## Hints for hot pepper

Hot pepper powder scattered around brassicas controls root maggots. The powder can also be used to protect trees from sapsucker damage in the spring.

—from a conversation with  
Larry Marshall, Saskatchewan



## Wild planting

Potatoes will grow anywhere there is a bit of good soil, some sunshine and water. Between our professional lives in Alberta and driving back and forth purchasing seed and equipment, and getting field crops in the ground etc., we did not have a lot of time for getting a vegetable garden in this year. There was a heap of disturbed soil in the backyard and raw ground. It was pretty ugly, but the gardener in me saw a garden waiting to happen. I quickly chucked in nine pounds of Norland seed potatoes 3–4 inches below the surface and some extra

corn, peas, beans and wildflower seeds to reclaim what could have easily turned into a muddy mess this spring.

By late July, we enjoyed our first potatoes from the 'wild garden,' the wildflowers added beauty, and the beans, corn and peas are coming on. With no watering, not much weeding or any extra attention, we have a great looking crop of taters!

We did the same in a sand box in front yard. The herb gardener in me saw a kitchen garden. I quickly planted lettuces, radishes, onions, dill, pansies, bee balm and nasturtiums, all of which have grown with no extra watering or assistance from me. If you have no time to garden, maybe you should try wild planting and see what happens.

—a No-Gardening tip from  
Pam Irving, Alberta

## Gopher control

You can control gophers and ground squirrels by planting chickling vetch (AC Greenfix) around their burrows. The plant, which also works as a green manure, contains a neurotoxin in its tissues which is concentrated in the seeds.

If you plant a field in chickling vetch, the following spring, the rodents will eat around their holes and ingest the plant tissue and also some hard seed that didn't germinate the year before. That fall, you will find cobwebs around every hole in the field.

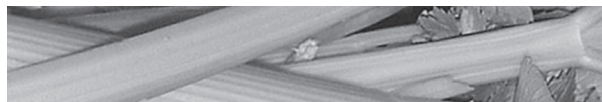
—from a conversation with  
Larry Marshall, Saskatchewan



Send your tricks of the trade to  
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