

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 12-25-02) , ©2005

I hope today finds you surrounded by friends and family. During a break from the festivities maybe you'll want to log on to your computer and begin thinking about spring planting. Use [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) as your search engine and key in the words "seed catalogs." You'll find a wealth of sites where you can order seeds and plants online or request free catalogs from the comfort of your home. Be sure to remove all the cookies afterwards though.

One of my favorite sites is [www.thegardlicstore.com](http://www.thegardlicstore.com). If you're a lover of garlic (who isn't?) this site will provide a great respite from the football games and other holiday revelries. You can order items on line even before you receive a catalog. The site will also afford many minutes (even hours) of surfing through the information archives. Visitors to the site can find out how to grow and harvest garlic, discover recipes, garlic products and recipe books to order plus a host of information about growing this tasty plant. You can even subscribe to a quarterly email newsletter.

Another enticing site I discovered doesn't have catalogs to peruse or order. The site is from the Smithsonian. Visitors to <http://www.sil.si.edu/ondisplay/seeds> will find the Smithsonian's pictorial collection of over 10,000 seed and nursery catalogs. The illustrated covers show one hundred years of seed catalogs. This site is a feast for the eyes and will include a walk down memory lane for many.

The 2002 Canadian Gardening Site at [http://www.avidmediainc.com/cg\\_cat/](http://www.avidmediainc.com/cg_cat/) is the twelfth annual roundup of garden catalogs. Catalogs are listed by topic from A-Z and also by categories (i.e. lilies, grasses, shrubs etc.). Visitors to the site can peruse the offerings and then order free catalogs online. Some of the selections at this site do have fees of five to ten dollars for the cost of the catalogs.

These suggestions should get you started. Don't forget to check out Johnny's Seeds, Territorial, Seeds of Change and Nichols. Use these URLs and phone numbers to order your catalogues: [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com) (207-861-3900); [www.territorial-seed.com](http://www.territorial-seed.com) (541-942-9547); [seedsofchange.com](http://seedsofchange.com) (1-888-762-7333); and [www.nicholsgardennursery.com](http://www.nicholsgardennursery.com) (1-800-422-3985). In addition, while you're at the Seeds of Change site you can also request a free email newsletter.

Even if you don't order any seeds the planting, growing and other horticulture information provided in catalogues is great. Be careful though, you'll soon be itching to grab some seeds and get out there and start planting. Not yet!

One of my gardening friends Don MacDonald loves to collect gardening books. Some of my most favorite books have been recommended by Don. His most recent acquisition is available at Costco in their book section. It's "Trees & Shrubs" published by Global Book Publishing, Chief Consultant: Ernie Wasson. "Trees & Shrubs" contains illustrations of over 8500 plants and includes a CD ROM. Don told me this is one of the

most complete resources on shrubs and trees he's found yet. I agree. You'll want to check this book out yourself.

If your family takes down their holiday decorations between Christmas and New Year call Kitsap County Solid Waste at 360-337-5777 or 800-825-4940 to locate drop stations to recycle your Christmas tree. The Solid Waste Website is found at [www.kitsapgov.com/sw/default.htm](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sw/default.htm). The site is updated almost weekly.

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