

Jefferson County Cooperative Extension

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October 30, 2013

Ms. Daisy Smith
840 Gardener Dr.
Louisville, KY 40201

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for contacting the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener's desk. Based on what you have described, I am fairly certain that your problems are related to a depletion of soil nutrients and the need to rotate crops. Fall is the perfect time to be addressing these issues in order to increase productivity in your garden next season.

To begin with, I would suggest that you test your soil to determine the pH level. If you need to adjust the pH level or add slow acting materials such as phosphorous or potassium, now is the time to do so in order that the nutrients will be available in the spring.

Planting 25% of your bed space with a cover crop each year is also beneficial. Planting cool season legumes such as hairy vetch or Austrian winter peas during the fall helps to replenish organic matter in beds each winter. In the summer time, you can use buckwheat or cowpeas in beds that are in rotation.

In addition, rotating vegetables from within like families helps to avoid buildup of pests in the soil. An example would be tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants.

For additional information, I encourage you to call or come by our office. I am also enclosing copy of our brochure, "Raised Bed Gardening" for you to reference.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Denney
Master Gardener

Enc: "Raised Bed Gardening"