

Expelling Spoiled Spices

Dear Tim:

I've got a great vegetable soup recipe that I make a few times a year. It's usually pretty zippy because I use some special herbs and spices. But the last time I made it, it didn't have its typical kick. I'm thinking maybe the spices are responsible. I know they've been in the rack for a while, but I have no idea how long they're supposed to last. What can you tell me about how long I should be keeping my spices?

—Baffled on Brixton

Dear Baffled:

I'm no expert on spice. Just ask Glenda. She says I lost mine not long after our honeymoon. To find a credible answer for you I called the Durkee hotline lady, and here's what she told me. Dried spices in whole form should be good for about 12 months. Ground spices last about half that time. For the most part, though, herbs and spices don't go bad, they just lose their flavor. Kind of like the Olsen twins. When



DEAR TIM

it's time to swap out the unsavory spices in your rack, stop by aisle 3. We've got plenty of great replacements and some that are sure to save your soup.

Dear Tim:

It's already after the Fourth of July and so far my summer's been a bust. I'm working two jobs. I have no fun, no tan and no girlfriend. Can anything save my summer?

—Pale on Parkway

Dear Pale:

I've got four words for you. Corn on the cob. Nothing

says summer like fresh, juicy, tasty, buttery corn on the cob. It's better than the Beach Boys. And since you don't have a girlfriend, you don't have to worry about eating too politely. You can just let the melted butter roll right down your chin. You'll find our fresh corn in the produce department and butter in aisle 1. Incidentally, if you're on the market, Kelsey, our cashier, is single and looking for a hard-working guy like you. If you're interested, though, you may have to rethink those table manners.

Dear Tim:

I saw you at *Movies In The Park* again. Why is it every time you show up it rains?

—Drenched on Dorset

Dear Drenched:

While my powers are considerable, controlling the weather isn't one of them. I come primarily to pass out frozen treats from aisle 6, so if you'll give me a good description of yourself, I can skip your section next time.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221 or at www.huffmansmarket.com. Or bring this ad in for a free soft-serve ice cream and pester him in person.