

ORGANIC GARDENING



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Table of Contents

Chapter 1:

Organic Gardening Basics

Chapter 2:

Having A Plan

Chapter 3:

Having The Right Tools

Chapter 4:

Making Your Own Mulch

Chapter 5:

Natural Pest Control

Chapter 6:

Organic Fertilizer

Chapter 7:

Planting

Chapter 8:

Harvesting

Chapter 9:

What To Avoid

Chapter 10

The Benefits Of Organic Gardening

Chapter 1:

Organic Gardening Basics

Synopsis

Organic gardening pertains to growing of vegetables, fruits, seeds, grains and nuts the natural way. This means that there are strictly no fungicides, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides and poisonous fertilizers and chemicals in the scene. The soil is rather prepared and tilled using composed manure, mulch and other organic materials. The plants are naturally grown and sprouted with the help of water, minerals derived from compost and sun. Organic gardeners tend to cultivate the soil and grow plants based on sustainable and holistic approach.

Organic gardening can be both fun and worthy habit. Many individuals these days are getting hooked with organic gardening for the reason that this paved way for worthy utilization of time and resources. This particular type of gardening is proven to be very engaging. But before devoting your time and attention to this undertaking, it would be best to have a clear understanding about the basics of organic gardening and all essential aspects link to it.

The following information can help widen your awareness and familiarity about organic gardening.

The Basics

You have probably been trying to eat organic foods to protect the environment from being loaded with toxic chemicals or reduce the amount of risky pesticide that you and your entire family consume. Organic can be a bit expensive but there is now a possible way of growing your own fresh and delicious produce while at the same time having learning and fun at the same time. This possible way is none other than organic gardening.

Organic gardening is a type of gardening that does not utilize synthetic products such as fertilizers as pesticides. Organic gardening ideally replenishes resources. The bigger picture of organic gardening includes working in cooperation with nature. Individuals who have the heart for this type of gardening view their gardens as natural part of ecosystem. Here are some other basic facts that you need to know when getting started with organic gardening:

Meaning of Organic Matter

Organic matter pertains to decaying animal and plant waste. This includes grass clipping, compost, kitchen scraps, dried leaves, fish heads and more. Organic matter is usually being used as conditioner and soil amendment. This can work on the soil of your new garden or can be used as mulch or top dressing of existing gardens.

The Importance of Soil

One of the primary tenants in organic gardening is feeding the soil and this soil will in turn feed the plants. Basically, plants derive water, nutrients and air from the soil. This therefore play essential role in effective and successful gardening regardless of type. There are actually different types of

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soil. The clay soil is the type that contains higher nutrients as compared to sandy soil.

Sandy soil is said to be well-drained but there are some remedies that can be undertaken to make this an ideal garden soil. This is definitely where organic matter comes to play. Adding this aids in improving the texture of the soil and attracting organisms that make nutrients in the garden soil.

Controlling Diseases and Pests Without Chemicals

Organic gardening does not really mean that you have to share your plants with worms. Since you are gardening in collaboration with nature, you still have to accept that pests are inevitable scenes in your garden. Vigilance should be your first line of defense. Inspect the plants regularly to determine some problem signs and be able to take action instantly.

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Chapter 2:

Having a Plan

Synopsis

The success and failure of your organic gardening venture depends into proper planning. In order to avoid failure, you need to invest great deal of time and effort to creating and having solid plan. If you have the desire to get the freshest and most delicious produce, you need to stick with a comprehensive and organized gardening plan.

The following can help you boost up your plan and put things in proper perspective or place:

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A Plan

- **Explore Possibilities**

Thinking about garden designs means exploring possibilities. In designing, you are allowed to think of ways and things that you truly desire for your organic garden. You can also figure out the quantity of plants you can plant and cultivate in your chosen space. You can also work on laying out paths and plotting out your unique planting. Never stop exploring until you reach the point that you already settled with the ones that meet your unique gardening needs.

- **Consider the Future**

When designing or creating your organic gardening plan, you need to consider the future. Planning a garden is like having a look at the future. You need to have a clear idea on what your organic garden will look like for the coming years. You can join together all the essential components of your plan in order to come up with an ideal garden.

- **Make Changes and Stay Flexible**

The good thing about planning is that you are being able to figure out things, make assessments and execute changes if necessary especially if conditions change. One of the top benefits of having a plan for your organic garden is flexibility. To adopt changes in your plan is easier than having to change the entire garden.

- **Go with the Detail**

When planning, you can go to the level of details that you find comfortable with. You can plan for style of planting, amount of plants

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to be planted as well as the plants and seeds to be purchased. It is essential to always go with the detail for in the end, it will be easier for you to determine what needs to be planted and what you have already planted. You also need to get into the details of planting schedule.

- **Be Prepared**

Since planning is a slice of the future, you need to be prepared with all the gardening tasks that you need to accomplish. Ideal organic garden design gives you the idea what needs to be purchase and when to make this purchase. This also allows you to allocate the resources properly. Be prepared when making plan for your organic garden for this enables you to phase out projects around your organic garden so that tasks are being kept within personal abilities. In such way, organic gardening becomes a joy and not a choice.

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Chapter 3:

Having the Right Tools

Synopsis

The success of your gardening is nearly impossible if you do not have all the essentially needed tools. It is true that a real gardener starts with his basic collection of tools and starts to build from here. Your gardening tools are vital parts of your gardening venture so their real value should never be set aside. These tools help in speeding up the process of cutting, cultivating, cleaning and doing other garden related tasks. The type of tools to use will still depend on the type of gardening that an individual wishes to pursue. If you are into organic gardening, there are also set of tools that are suitable for this particular type of gardening. Having the right tool is one of the vital aspects of organic gardening.

The following tools can help you deal with organic gardening easily and efficiently:

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The Tools

- **Hand Trowel**

Trowels are ideal for planting smaller herbs, annuals and vegetables. These tools are also utilized in digging out stubborn weeds, planting the container gardens and combining potting mixes. If you have enough budgets, buy a trowel that is made up of stainless steel. These are proven to be ultimately durable and usually includes rubberized grip for utmost comfort.

- **Digging Fork**

This tool is indispensable for dividing and lifting perennials, turning compost and loosening soil that is compacted. When purchasing digging fork, make sure to go for the one with four footrest and square tines for convenient and comfortable digging. An excellent digging fork comes with cast or forged head made of stainless steel and hardwood or fiberglass handle. If you are aspiring to get real leverage during digging time choose a digging fork with D-shaped handle.

- **Hoe**

There are various different types of hoe ranging from standard hoe up to action hoes. There are also super thin hoes that are specially designed in order to fit in even into tiny and tight spaces. The types of hoes to be chosen depends on the garden you are planning to grow and cultivate.

- **Digger**

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This is another tool that can help you in maintaining and cultivating your organic garden. Diggers are ideal tools for digging out taproot and weeds.

- **Rake**

This tool is used for digging dried leaves or cleaning the garden area. You should have a rake that is sturdy and durable to make sure that it can stand frequent digging.

- **Hand Cultivator**

This gardening tool is beneficial in terms of removing smaller weeds and roughing the soil prior to seeding either in garden beds or containers. Look for cultivator that is a piece of molded or forged steel or the one with steel head that is attached securely to wooden handles.

- **Bypass Pruners**

These are helpful in almost all gardening tasks such as gentle shaping, deadheading and eliminating spent foliage. A great pair of bypass pruners can be costly however, there are some mid-range brands you can use that guarantees good quality. Look for pairs that can easily take part for sharpening and cleaning and make sure that this comfortably fits in you two hands.

- **Gloves**

These are tools that protect gardeners from thorns and brambles and plants that trigger skin irritation.

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- **Sharp Knife**

This gardening tool is helpful in terms of cutting vegetables and this is also an excellent addition to your harvesting equipment.

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Chapter 4:

Making your Own Mulch

Synopsis

Mulch offers finished looks to landscape and provides immense benefits to the soil. Mulch play essential role in suppressing weeds, retaining moisture, protecting from extreme temperatures and reducing erosion. Organic mulch improves the fertility and structure of the soil. If you got the time and materials, you can actually reduce cost by means of making your own mulch. Making mulch utilizing organic materials is a green and environment-friendly sustainability practice.

The following are ways on how to make your own mulch:

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The Mulch

- Decide on the volume or quantity of mulch needed by your organic garden. When applying mulch around garden walkways, trees and flower beds, the depth must be two inches at least.
- Find a particular area in your yard that is spacious enough to accommodate the organic material. The area must be free from bushes, bulbs, trees and must also be flat. Remember that putting mulch on top of the grass triggers the death of the grass.
- Start making mulch file during the fall season. This is the time when leaves are making wonderful base. Rake the leaves up to the mound.
- Put leaves in the wheelbarrow using your shovel and rake and carry the leaves to the mulch pile.
- Chop leaves to tiny pieces using electric leaves shedder. In case you do not have this electric tool, use a shovel or lawnmower when breaking the leaves.
- Saw organic materials and fallen limbs to tiny pieces.
- Put in wood chips in the wheel barrow and haul these wood chips to the mulch pile. Dump these chips on the top of the leaves.
- Let your mulch set during the entire winter and apply this in your organic gardening during spring. Use rake in spreading the mulch in about 2 inches.
- Continue putting in organic materials in the mulch pile.

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- Add more layers of mulch to the organic garden during fall to safeguard your organic plants from cold during winter.

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Chapter 5:

Natural Pest Control

Synopsis

Natural pest control is an ideal option in managing and eliminating pests. This natural method of pest control utilizes biological materials in reducing and managing pest infestation in your garden. Natural method of controlling pests is proven to be eco-friendly.

The following information can help you gain clearer understanding on what natural pest control is all about.

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