

Organic Gardening without Having A GreenThumb ~ Vegetable Gardening Ideas for Beginners



by Terry D. Clark

NOW FOR DISCLAIMER

© All rights reserved. TDC Enterprise; Terry D. Clark, Lansing, IL 60438
No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanic, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission by the author.

NOTICE

No responsibility is assumed by the publisher or author for any injury and/or damage to persons or property as a matter of products liability, negligence, or otherwise, or from any use or operation of any methods, products, instructions or ideas contained in the material herein.

Table of Content

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 11:

Growing Vegetables In Containers For Beginners

Chapter 12:

What Can I Grow In A Container Garden?

Chapter 13:

What Soil Mix Should I Use For Containers?

Chapter 14:

What Containers Can I Use?

Chapter 15:

How Do I Water A Container Garden?

Chapter 16:

What About Fertilizing My Containers?

Chapter 17:

How Can I Minimize The Risk Of Pests?

Chapter 18:

What About Diseases In Container Gardens?

Final Thoughts:

Chapter 1. Organic Gardening Basics

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 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.

Chapter 2. Having a Plan

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:

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 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 you 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 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.

Chapter 3. Having the Right Tools

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:

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

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.

- Sharp Knife

This gardening tool is helpful in terms of cutting vegetables and this is also

an excellent addition to your harvesting equipment.

Chapter 4. Making your Own Mulch

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:

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 shredder. 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.

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

Chapter 5. Natural Pest Control

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.

Pest Control

The Natural Method of Controlling Pests

This method is referred to as new materials intended to fight pests inhabiting your garden the natural way. This is also specially designed to utilize organisms in controlling pests in a given environment. There are instances that organisms are raised or grown and then eventually released in increased numbers to fight back infestation biologically. The best part about controlling pests with the natural method is that pests are being reduced significantly without posing any harm to the environment and agriculture.

Considerations and Benefits of Natural Methods of Controlling Pest

Natural methods are less damaging and safe as compared to the other method which is chemical pest control. The latter is said to work on both the dangerous and harmless pests. Natural methods are organic in nature which means that there is definitely no additives and chemicals used. The longer this has been introduced the more effective it becomes.

There are natural pesticides that you can use in controlling pest in your organic garden and these include Neem oil, which is utilized in landscapes and gardens and used mainly for eliminating insects that chew plants such as the weevil. Another one is the Diatomaceous Earth which is a powdery or natural dust and dry material utilized mainly for killing and deterring crawling pests both outdoors and indoors. These are just few of the many natural pesticides you can use when controlling pests and growing your garden well.

Chapter 6. Organic Fertilizer

Organic and natural fertilizer differs from that of the chemical fertilizer. It is true that organic fertilizer is highly recommended for growing and cultivating your organic garden. When plenty of organic material is present in the soil, it remains airy and loses and can hold more nutrients and moisture. This can ideally promote soil organism growth and foster healthier plant development.

You have to note that using chemical fertilizer to the soil result to losing microbiotic activity and organic matter. When this type of fertilizer is used, the structure of the soil deteriorates, become lifeless, compact and unable to hold nutrients and water.

The following are additional information about organic fertilizer, application of fertilizer and the different types of fertilizer.

Fertilizer

Short Definition of Organic Fertilizer

Organic fertilizer is a type of fertilizer that is derived from animals, mined minerals and plants. Any organic fertilizer combination can feed the soil organisms producing plant food in available plant form.

Organic Fertilizer Application

Since organic fertilizers usually take time to make nutrients available for the soil and break them down, it is highly suggested to apply organic fertilizer at least several months prior to planting. Early application of this fertilizer gives soil microbes the time to absorb organic matter and turn this into a form that your plants can utilize. The easiest way of applying organic fertilizers is by spreading them to the planting beds or soil surface.

Different Types of Organic Fertilizers

There are different types of organic fertilizers so if you are planning to grow an organic garden and have your own fresh produce, you need to be familiar with the following types and see for yourself which among this fertilizer are good for your garden:

- **Animal Based Fertilizers**-these are by-products derived from meat processing and dairy industries producing multitudes of organic fertilizers.
- **Plant Fertilizers**-this includes seaweed or sea kelp, corn gluten and cottonseed meal and alfalfa meal.
- **Mined fertilizer**-this is another type of organic fertilizer that is composed of gypsum, soft-rock phosphate and limestone.

- **Fish products**-these are the by-products coming from fish industries producing organic fertilizers like fish meal and fish emulsion. This contains high level of nitrogen and is made quickly available for plants.

- **Animal Manures**-these are derived from varieties of insects and animals. Most of animal manures are composted, bagged and sterilized at times. Animal manure's nutrient composition varies depending on the bedding, animal and method of storing the manure.

Organic fertilizers are compound fertilizers containing more than one type of organic materials. The ingredients making up these fertilizers may be vegetable or animal matter or maybe a combination of the two. When speaking of fertilizer, it is imperative to keep in mind that this is composed of important elements that are completely produced the natural way and without any trace of additives and components that are manufactured synthetically.

Chapter 7. Planting

To make sure that you will get the best from your organic garden, plant seeds and seedlings in the right time and appropriate time. There are zone charts that can help you deal with your gardening venture. This chart provides you with great ideas on when and how to start planting. The average temperature of the soil is also an essential aspect that needs to be considered when planting seeds. The temperature of the soil also dictates the most suitable plants or root crops to be planted.

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

