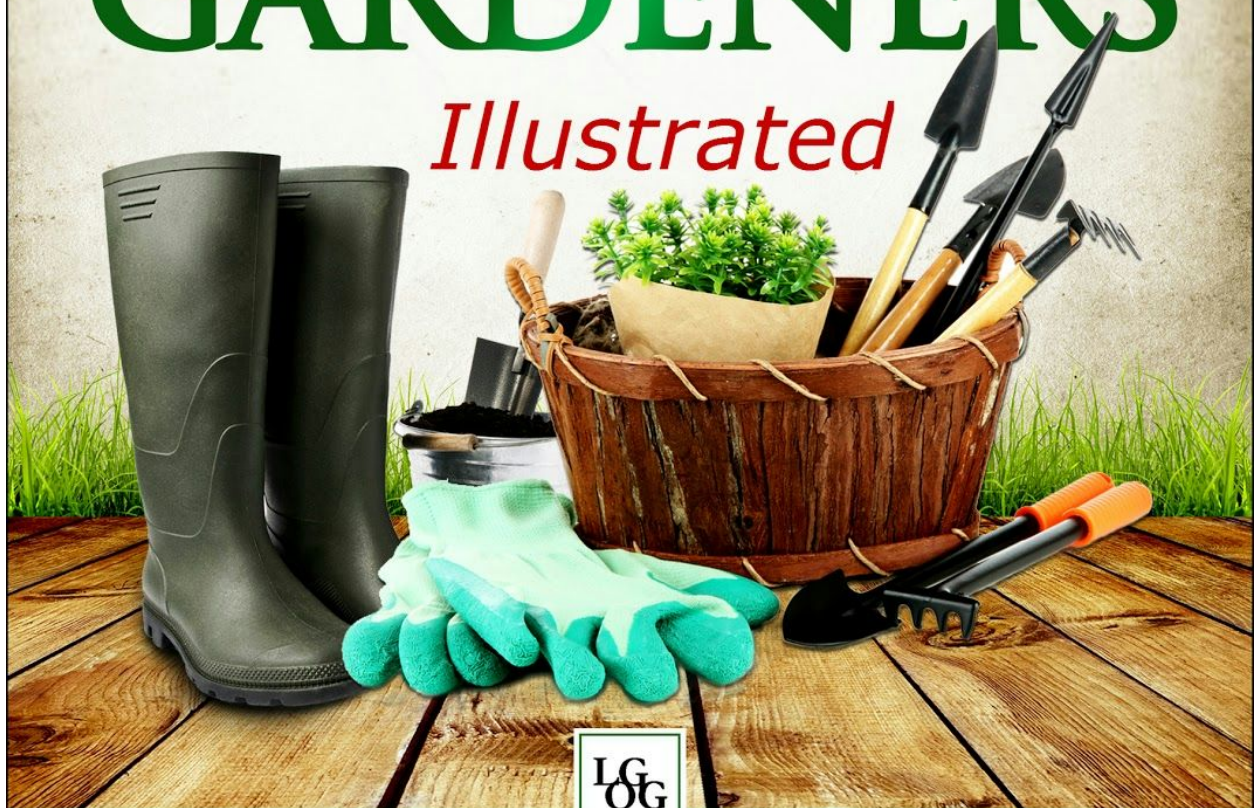


Living Off
Grid Guide

221 TIPS & TRICKS FROM MASTER GARDENERS

Illustrated



STEPHEN SHADE

221 TIPS & TRICKS

FROM

MASTER GARDENERS

Illustrated

Gardening tips & tricks on how to plant a garden, starting seeds indoors, organic pest control, expert gardening techniques, container gardening essentials and more...

Written By Stephen Shade
A product of [Living Off Grid Guide.com](http://LivingOffGridGuide.com)

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Thank You!

Thank you for buying this book. This is the first installment in a series of gardening books with the goal of teaching you how to grow all of your own food. You can find more information on our blog, <http://www.livingoffgridguide.com/>.

You can go [HERE](#) to get a free gift by signing up to our email newsletter. This way you can stay up to date when we publish new material to our blog and when future books are published.

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About

Living Off Grid Guide

“Learn how to be self sufficient.”

Living off the grid doesn't mean you have to live out in the woods somewhere without electricity, Internet or your cell phone.

Although you certainly could do that. Living off the grid means living independent of society's infrastructure. Being able to not only survive, but thrive off of your own electricity, your own food and your own water.

About The Author

In his books Stephen Shade provides you with both theoretical knowledge and practical action steps to help you get off the grid. You will learn what to focus on first, how to approach new projects, and what works best out of the seemingly infinite available choices.

When not working on Living Off Grid Guide, Stephen is spending time with his wife and children, gardening, or playing board games with friends.

Check out more about [Living Off Grid Guide on our blog](#).

Author's Note

This is my first book. It has been a great adventure. It is a collection of tips I've gathered from my experience, my grandfather-in-law's experience and some great tips I found on the Internet. I hope you enjoy them and learn something. I certainly did.

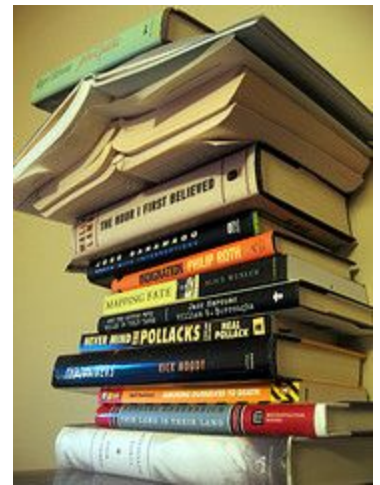
Mentality

1. Gardening isn't easy. It may be simple, but don't get that confused with easy. You will come across a number of obstacles, from pests to bad weather. Just remember that nature laughs last and don't get too attached to any one plant. Be patient with yourself and enjoy the journey.

2. There is a lot to learn. Be ready and willing to hit the books. There are thousands of plants and hundreds of varieties of each. All with different weather, soil, light and water needs.

3. Think like a scientist. Treat each plant as an experiment. If something didn't work well last year, try something different the next year.

4. In order to not repeat "mistakes" take good notes. Keep a journal of what you planted: how, when, where and the weather conditions.





5. Don't forget to stop and smell the roses. Sowing seeds, watering, pulling weeds, and harvesting can all be a lot of fun. It can be very grounding and therapeutic. Make sure you take the time to notice the beauty of nature and enjoy yourself.

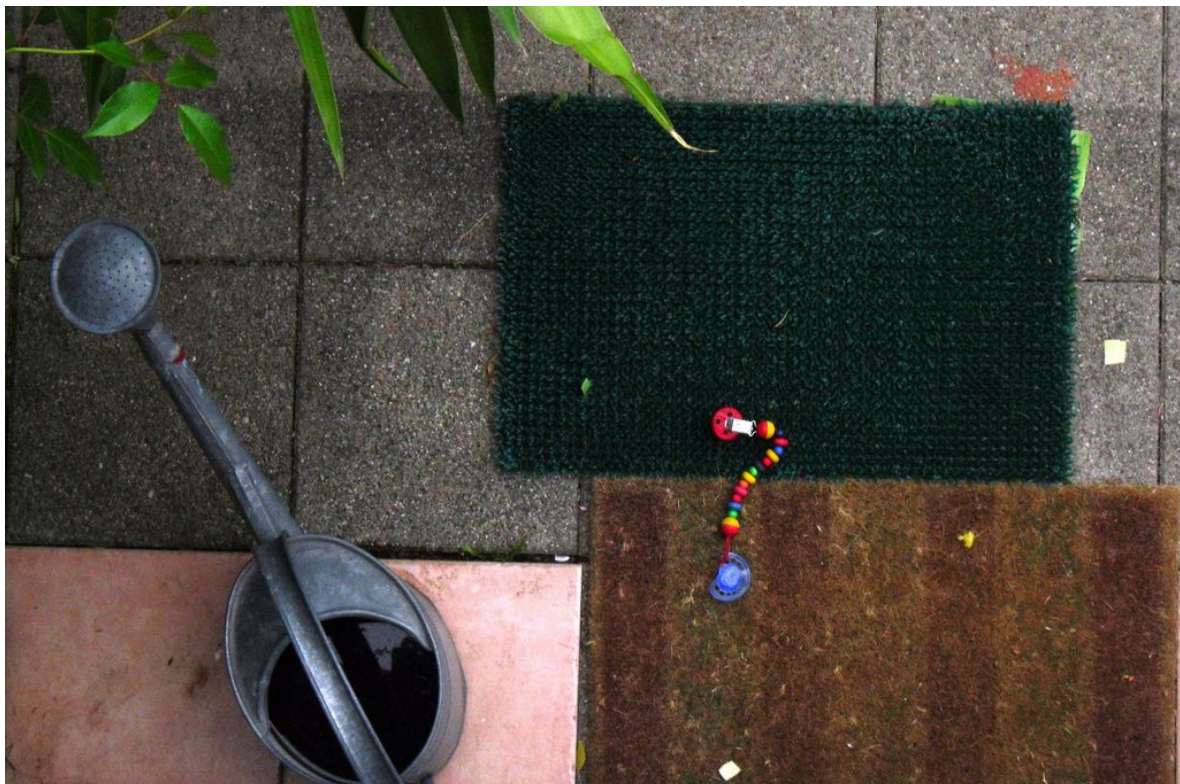
6. Organic gardening is the way to go. One of the main benefits of growing your own garden is that you know what went into your plants. If you are putting chemical fertilizers and pesticides on, you might as well buy your produce from the store. In addition, chemical fertilizers shorten the lifetime use of your soil. Seek out and use organic techniques that are more sustainable and better for you.

7. Look for and join your local gardening club. Insights from local growers will be invaluable while you're getting started.

Tools

8. Using the right tools for the job will make your life easier. Make sure to use short handled tools for raised beds, and long handles for ground level gardens. Also, keep your tools sharp.

9. Old kitchen and bath mats and make great work mats for when you are down on your knees pulling weeds or planting seeds and seedlings. You can also use old foam seat cushions for bleachers.



10. If you don't like dirt getting stuck under your finger nails, you can prep your nails by scratching a bar of soap. The soap will prevent dirt from getting under there. Then when you wash your hands afterwards, the soap washes out much easier than dirt.



11. You can repurpose a milk jug or similar container into a thumb controlled watering can. Put 5 small holes in the bottom of the jug and one hole in the lid. Then fill the container with some water and cover the hole in the cap with your thumb. This will prevent the water from escaping until you release the air hole.

12. Re-purpose quart size milk containers into free plant starters. They work well because the container is deeper than most pots, encouraging deep root development.



13. Old butter knives make excellent wigglers or dibbers for planting seeds and seedlings.

14. Old butter knives also can be used to loosen the roots of weeds.

15. Old t-shirts can be used as slings to support fruit from vertical growing melons and squashes. You can also use old pantyhose or nylons.



Cold nights can be deadly for young plants. You can solve this problem in a couple of ways.

16. Cover your seedling overnight with a ceramic pot, it will act as thermal mass and keep the seedling warm. It will also protect it from wind chill. It probably won't work in snow as shown here, but you get the idea.

17. Also some well placed buckets of water will add thermal mass and radiate heat all night, keeping your plants just warm enough. This can also be done with trees by using 50 gallon barrels.



18. I cut the tops and bottoms off of gallon milk jugs and place them over my seedlings. This doesn't add thermal mass, but it does prevent wind chill. Make sure to leave the bottom attached on one side so you can fold it back and place a stone on it. This will prevent the jug from blowing away.



19. You can plant your seedlings earlier by covering a wire frame support with a clear polyethylene creating a mini greenhouse.

20. If you are using chemical fertilizers or have hard water you may get salt deposits on your ceramic pots. You can remove them with this solution: one part rubbing alcohol, one part vinegar, one part water and two parts elbow grease. Make sure to let it dry before you plant in it.



21. The gourd *Luffa Acutangula* is easily grown from seed and produces a very satisfactory, sanitary dishcloth. Use the insides of the gourd.

22. Plastic coated tablecloths slide well on grass. All you have to do is turn over your tablecloth and pile up your bags and supplies on it, then drag it where you need it.



23. Keep your tools close at hand by placing them on a wall or fence in or near your garden. Put a small awning over them to protect them from the elements and use hooks to keep them organized.

24. If you live in a hot area, your outdoor pots may get too hot and cook the roots of your potted plants. To protect your roots, first insulate your pots with bubble wrap, then add your soil and plant.



25. Paper bags can be used as planters for seedlings that are extra sensitive to root disturbance. First spray cooking oil in a paper bag, let dry, then plant seedlings in the bag. When it is time to plant in the garden just plant the whole bag and tear off any part of the bag that sticks out.

26. Toilet paper rolls also make great planters. You just cut four 1 inch slits on one end, then fold them in to make a bottom. Fill with soil and start your seeds. Once they are established you just tear off the bottom you made and plant the entire roll.



27. You can use tin foil to help reflect extra sun to plants that need it.



28. Most bugs hang out under leaves, attach a mirror to a stick so you don't have to bend over while you search for pests.

29. Place old pantyhose in the bottom of pots to help hold soil in and allow excess water to drain. You could also use coffee filters.

30. To help you space your plants properly you could use a tape measure, or you could use a rake or shovel handle. Before you start planting use a tape measure and a permanent marker to mark inch and foot lines on your handle. Now it's a yard stick as well as a shovel.



31. You can flip over a large pot and place the saucer base on top of it to create a nice little end table. You can also fill the saucer with water to turn it into a bird bath.

32. An easy way to dispense twine is to use a small pot. You put the twine in the pot, push the end through the bottom of the pot and turn the pot over. Instant twine dispenser.



33. Hose guides are always a good idea. One step up from metal stake, is a metal stake with clay pots on it. Place the first pot upside down, then a second one on top of it. This will act like a funnel for the hose and the pots will spin as you pull the hose allowing for easy pulling.

34. River rocks make efficient and attractive plant markers. Just use some white paint or a permanent marker to write the plant type on the stones. Best part is, you can use them year after year. To make your life easier label your plant markers with the variety name before you head outdoors.

35. Without too much effort you can make some nice compost bins out of some wooden pallets.



36. Learn how to stretch your seasons with things like cloches, cold frames and tunnels. In spring this will allow you to grow your salad crops earlier and in fall it will extend your harvest of salads and root crops.



37. Do not use treated wood in the garden. Things like railroad ties have preservatives in them that are toxic and harmful. They may have negative effects on your more sensitive plants.

38. Egg cartons can be used as seed starting pots. Just punch a small hole in the bottom for drainage then fill with soil and plant your seeds.



Planning & Placement

39. Make sure you plan your space ahead of time. It can be hard to find time to plant, so the last thing you want is to be trying to figure out how many seedlings to buy at the store, and where to plant what, while you're in the garden. Just a little planning will save you a lot of time on planting day.

40. We all know that you plant in the Spring. This means you need to plan in the winter. Winter is the time that you should be planning when and how much to plant, and order your seeds.



41. If this is your first garden start small. Choose only 3 to 5 different plants and don't worry about the variety at first. Just take good notes and learn as you go.

Picking varieties of plants can be stressful, but there are things you can do to make your life easier.

42. Join your local garden club and ask your neighbors what varieties they have had success with.

43. Call your local extension office and see what varieties they recommend.

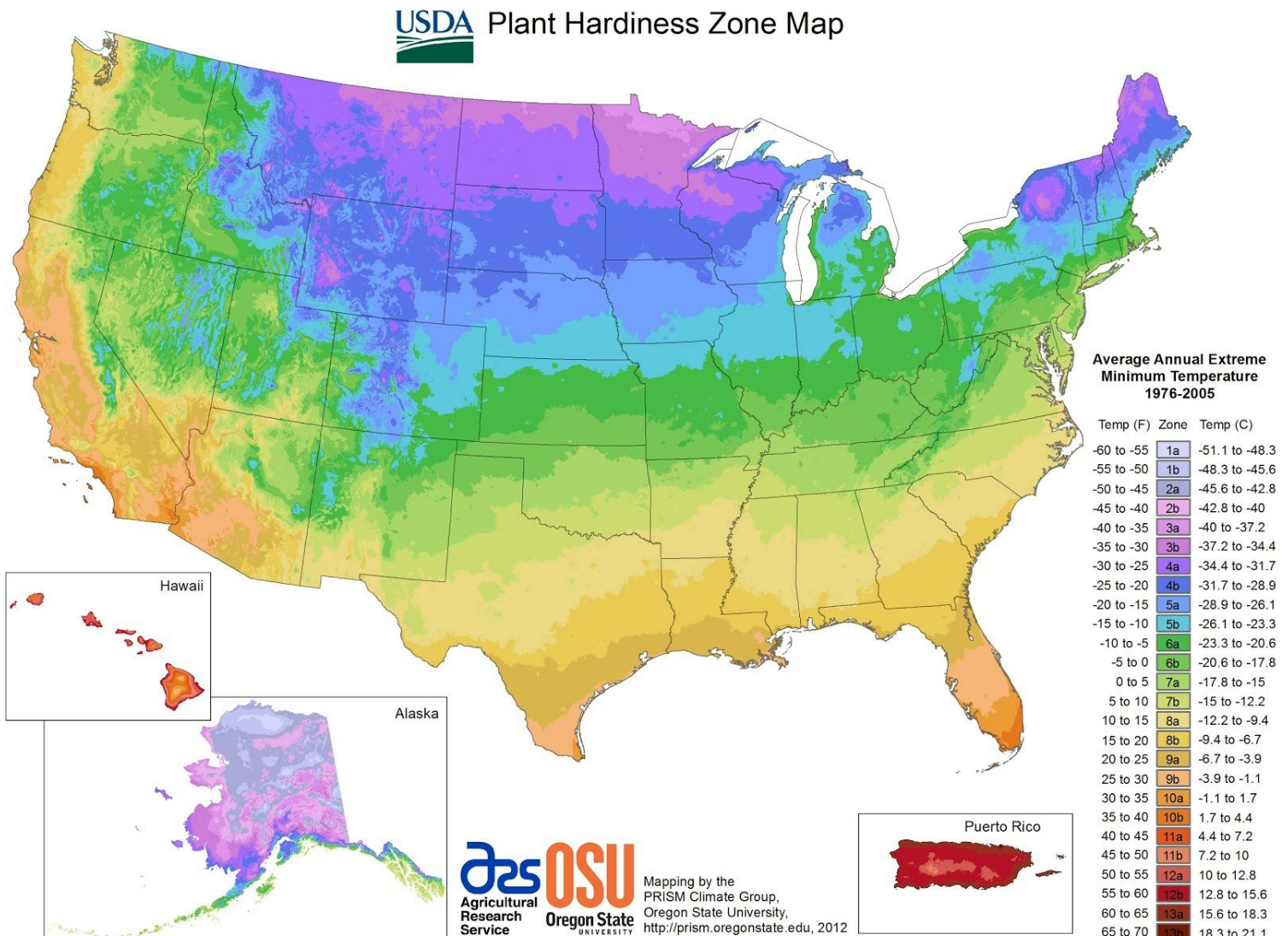
44. Talk to your local nursery. They usually have expert advice on what varieties do well in your area.



45. Here is a list of hardy plants that beginners should try first: tomatoes, peppers, onions, garlic, chard, basil, bush beans, zucchini, pumpkin, squash, watermelon, and sunflowers.

46. When choosing plants for your yard or garden, analyze your specific sunlight, soil, and climate first. Choose plants accordingly. Check with the nursery or read the seed packet to make sure a plant will work in your climate.

47. Be sure to check the United States Department of Agriculture's plant hardiness zone map before you buy your seeds. Know what zone you're in and what you can and can't grow.



48. Try at least one new variety each year. This keeps things interesting. Make sure you only dedicate a small portion of your real estate to these experiments; that way if they don't work out so well, you're not at a huge loss. If they do well, then you can expand next year.

49. Grow more of what grows well and less of what doesn't. Don't spend all of your time and energy on a plant that doesn't grow well in your climate. It will just stress you out and not give you a large crop. It's OK to grow some, but the majority of your crops should be ones that thrive in your climate.

50. If you are ready to take your garden to the next level, try a computer based garden planner. It will help you with timing and track what you planted and when. It can also draw up nicer looking plans.



51. Grow things that you like to eat and drink. If your favorite food is potatoes, grow potatoes. If your favorite drink is herbal tea, grow some herbs. This guarantees that you'll be more excited about your harvest.

52. If you do not have enough space in your yard, consider starting a community garden or a workplace garden.



53. Know what yield to expect. For example, most watermelons only produce one or two fruits and some varieties of tomatoes can produce all season long. Be sure to double check this before you plant to avoid disappointment.

54. Don't be afraid to plant things together. For example you can grow lettuce and spinach in the shade of a tomato plant. Or you can plant fast growers with slow grows, like carrots and radishes. You'll harvest the radishes long before the carrots are ready and they won't get in each other's way.



55. Row planting may be easier for watering, but it is less space efficient. If you want to get the most of your space, plant in rectangle strips no more than 3 or 4 feet wide. That way you can reach the entire bed without stepping in it and you can plant closer together to conserve space.



56. Don't forget to plant herbs. Good ones to start with are oregano, basil, dill, mint and parsley. It is so nice to cook with fresh herbs instead of dehydrated ones.

57. You can have too much of a good thing. Be careful not to plant too much of your favorite food. You may find that you have more than you can eat and end up composting a bunch. This is just a waste of real estate, time and effort. Of course, if you are part of a co-op or have a produce stand, feel free to plant extra.

58. Set aside some space for perennials (plants you don't have to plant every year.) This will save on time and effort. Examples are asparagus, rhubarb, sorrel, Jerusalem artichokes and horseradish. Don't forget about vines like grapes, bushes like blueberries and trees like apples, peaches and walnuts.



59. All plants need sun, but most prefer morning sun over afternoon sun. It is best to plant on the south/east of large shade generating objects, like houses and trees.

60. Grow crops that would be expensive to buy at the supermarket. For example, pomegranate grows well in the high desert and it is still expensive in the stores. Don't forget to price herbs as well. They can get expensive as well.



61. We are all a bit lazy, so try and situate your garden as close to your kitchen and dining room as possible. Trust me the closer it is, the more you'll eat from it.



62. One way to do this is with a container garden. You can place it next to your house on a patio for easy access. Plus it is easier to manage your soil and prevent weeds.

63. You can grow potatoes in a box or bucket to save on space. Also, if you build a box with doors on the sides at different levels, you can start your plant in the box with just a small amount of dirt and as it grows add dirt. The plant will convert the greens to roots and produce more potatoes. When you are ready to harvest you can open the doors starting with the lowest to collect your taters.



64. Try going wild with a self seeding patch of annuals. Things like calendula, cilantro, pumpkins, butternut squash, watermelon and winter squash will continue to grow in the same spot if you encourage the seeds to germinate with some tilling or slight manipulation. Just break open the fruits you don't want to eat and leave the plants over winter to act as mulch for the next year.

65. Devote one area to "this-and-that" crops. Sow small amounts of unfamiliar crops on a weekly basis. It is fun to see such a large variety all in one spot and to try new things regularly.

66. Learn to succession plant. With some of your veggies, like beets, radishes, carrots, bok choy, bulb fennel, celeriac, spinaches and lettuces, try planting smaller amounts on a weekly basis. This will save on space and produce a consistently timed harvest. In addition don't forget to plant something new when a crop has given its all.

67. To make the most of your space train your vining vegetables up a trellis. Your cucumbers, melons, pole beans, vining tomatoes and squash can all be grown vertically. Just make sure to support the fruit with an old t-shirt or nylon.

68. A “random bed” can be made by mixing a few packets of seeds together and just tossing them out into your garden. Start by mixing your seeds (flowers, greens and veggies) all together in a bucket and soak them overnight. In the morning pour off the water into the garden.

Then take a 5 gallon bucket half full of sand and thoroughly mix your seeds into it. Then spread handfuls of the sand into your bed, rake the mixture in and cover with a light mulch. After watering for a couple of weeks, you should see your “random bed” start to come up. Here is an example set: tomatoes, okra, kale, spinach, peas, Fava bean, radish, and marigolds. Another quick note: if you plant any legumes like peas and beans make sure to add some *Rhizobium* inoculant to your mix.

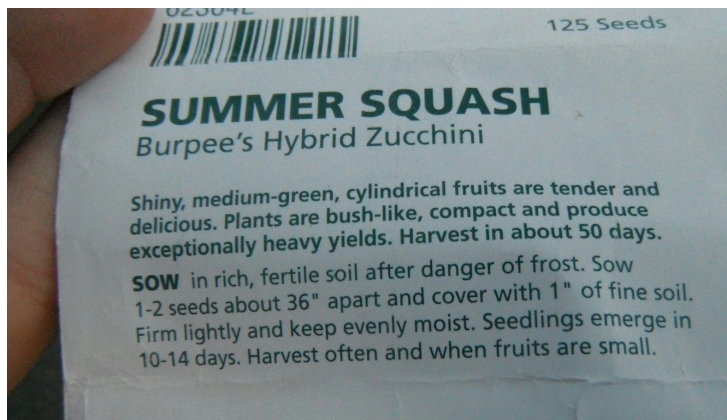


69. Use “relay planting” to help save time and effort when you succession plant. Before you harvest, start your replacement crops indoors. Then when you pull up your lettuce, you plop a replacement seedling right in its place. For example you could replace spring spinach with fall broccoli that you started indoors.

Planting

70. Here is a list of plants that you should direct sow: carrots, corn, cucumbers, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, lettuces, spinaches, and peas.

71. Read the seed packet. It usually has planting instructions that will help you know what temperature they can tolerate and how much sun they need.



72. Make sure to read the seed packet for seed planting depth. If you plant a seed too deep, it will never reach the sunlight and fail. A good rule of thumb is to base the depth on the size of the seed. The larger the seed, the deeper it is planted. A seed likes to have as much dirt above it as it is large, so a ½ inch diameter seed wants a ½ inches of dirt above it. Some seeds, like carrots, don't want very much soil above them. Lettuces actually like to have some sunlight hit the seeds.

73. For those seeds that need light to germinate, just scatter them about and then lightly brush your hand over them to slightly bury them. Finally press them down with an open hand to make sure that they make firm contact with the soil.

74. Your shallow seed will tend to dry out quickly, which can cause the seeds fail or the young sprouts to dry out and die. Make sure you check on them and water several times a day until they are established.

75. For your first garden do not try to plant any seeds that say “start indoors” on the package. These are usually tomatoes and peppers. It will save you time and effort just to buy plants from your local hardware store nursery

Tip: Lettuce needs about 1 in. of soil for good growth. Control weeds while the plants are small.

Planting Depth	Thin to	Sun/ Shade	Height	Days to Germination
1/4"	12"	Sun/Partial Shade	8"-9"	7-10 Days
Direct Sow	Start Indoors			
After Danger of Frost	6-8 Weeks Before Last Frost; Midsummer for Fall Crop			

Barcode: 38904477

for the first couple of years. Try not to overdo it in the beginning.

76. To get an early start on your garden plant your tomatoes, peppers, and garlic indoors in late winter. You can use a south facing window, but you'll need to deal with your plants stretching toward the sun. You can rotate the containers, or as mentioned in tip 27, you can cover a large piece of cardboard with aluminum foil and place it behind your seedlings. I've also used those reflective car window shades.

77. A step up from that, which I suggest if you are more serious about your gardening, is to use grow lights. You can buy a stainless steel shelf and a couple grow lights for less than \$300. This is the best way to make sure your seedlings are getting enough light. Here is the shelf system I use.



78. If you start your seeds indoors, be sure to start them 6 to 10 weeks before your local last frost date. Sometimes the seed packet gives you an estimate as well. This gives them time to mature before you transplant them. Then plant them 2 weeks after that date, to be safe.

79. If you started your seeds in a flat, you should transplant the strongest ones into their own pots before planting into your garden. Make sure to wait until they have at least 2 pairs of healthy leaves (4 total leaves) before you transplant them.



80. Cover your newly planted seed trays with plastic wrap to help them hold the moisture in until your seeds germinate.



81. To help your indoor seedlings grow stronger stems, gently run your hands across them several times a day. This simulates the effects of wind and stimulates the plants to grow shorter and sturdier. If you live in a windy area this is especially important.

82. When handling your seedlings, try not to touch the stem. The stem is the life line of the plant. Hold it by the pot or the soil/root ball when possible. If you must you can hold it by the leaves. Leaves and roots grow back. A stem usually won't.

83. Before you transplant your seedlings into your garden, make sure you harden them first. You can do this by slowly introducing them to their new environment. Take about two weeks to gradually expose them to the sun, wind, and temperatures in your garden. If you don't, your young plants will surely go into transplant shock and slow their growth.

84. A good way to tell if your soil is too wet to plant is to check the bottom of your shoe. If you have mud stuck to the bottom, it is too wet and you need to let it dry out some before you try and plant.



85. The best time to plant is on a cloudy day with rain expected the next and no extreme cold or heat expected in the upcoming week. For us desert dwellers this doesn't happen often, so try to



plant later in the day when the sun is low in the horizon, so the seedlings aren't cooking in the sun during the hottest part of the day. Also, you want to water the seedlings the day before you plant so the soil is moist.

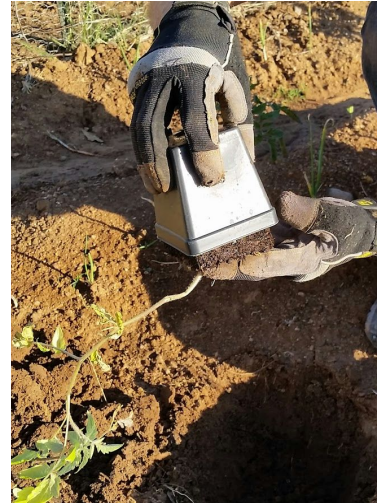
86. Try to leave your seedlings in the shade until you are ready to plant them.

87. Leave the seedling in the pot until you have dug the hole for it.

88. To remove your seedling from its pot gently squeeze the sides



of the pot to loosen the soil away from the edges of the pot. Then place your hand over the pot with the stem between your fingers, but not touching them. Turn over the pot. The soil/root ball and plant should fall out of the pot



and land on your hand. Remove the pot and turn the seedling back over and plant it. You may have to gently tap on the upside down pot to get the seedling to fall out.

89. If the soil/root ball is a total solid mass of roots, you should gently tease them loose from each other without breaking any, before you plant. If you damage any, cut them off before you plant.

90. While planting your seedlings, throw a small handful of compost in the hole before you plant. The compost gives the seedling the extra boost it needs to get started.



91. After you transplant your seedlings, make sure to give them a good watering. The water helps the soil settle and the roots get the nutrients they need to rebuild.



92. After planting your seedlings in your garden it is a good idea to mulch, but be careful not to block your seedlings from the sun by mulching too deep. As I'll mention later your mulch should be 4 inches deep, but a seedling will have a hard time with that. Therefore, before you plant pull back the mulch and create a cone shaped indentation around your seedling with a 1 inch space between the tip of the cone and the stem. This allows the young plant plenty of sunlight, but protects it from heavy winds. As the plant grows you can push the mulch back up against the stem.

93. When transplanting your seedlings into your garden make sure to plant them at the same depth they were in their pot. If you're not sure, deeper is better than too shallow. Too shallow

and your plants won't develop a good root system. Too deep and your stems could rot.

94. The exception to this is tomato seedlings. Studies have shown that if you plant your tomatoes as deep as their first set of true leaves, they develop stronger roots. In addition, they fruit larger, set earlier and produce more.



95. To get tomatoes with even stronger roots, try laying the seedling on its side and burying the stem up to the first set of true leaves. This will slow down your initial growth, but guarantees a strong root system. Don't worry, the stems will turn up on their own.

96. If you have a plant that needs a warmer environment, then you can create one for it by using a south facing wall. The brick will absorb heat from the sun and release it at night creating a warmer environment. If you need it warmer, paint the brick black, or use some plastic to create a little greenhouse.

97. When large areas of sun are lacking, don't be afraid to take advantage of small sunny spots by having many smaller gardens, instead of one large one. Just plant in the spots that get 6 or more hours of sun and put a bench or decoration in the shady spots.

98. To make use of sunny spaces on your deck or patio don't be afraid to plant in a container.



99. Sometimes a greenhouse variety will grow well in a shadier spot. Greenhouses filter out some of the light, so these varieties may be used to getting less sun.

100. Sometimes it is OK to give up on sun loving varieties. If you can't find enough sun, then just stick to shade tolerant plants such as spinach, lettuce, chard and other greens.

101. To reduce erosion and increase water absorption try terracing slightly downhill from on contour. This will slow down the flow of runoff. An additional benefit is that it will encourage cold air to flow down away from your plants.



102. Onions, garlic and other bulbs have two ends, a root end and a stem. Make sure that you plant these seeds or bulbs stem side up. Planting bulbs upside down or sideways will delay the growth as the roots and stem find their way and hinder the plant's ability to thrive. Usually the top is pointier than the bottom.



103. Don't be disappointed. Not all of the seeds you plant will grow. You will always have some dud seeds, and some weak seedlings. Be prepared for some casualties.

104. When not all of the seeds germinate, make the most of your space by planting more seeds in the gaps. Remember though, in order to do this you can't plant all of the seeds in your packet the first time. You'll need to save a few for later.



105. One way to prepare for losses is to overplant by 50% or more depending on your success rate. Keep in mind that you can always thin out your plants after you see which ones are doing the best.

106. Don't feel guilty about thinning your seedlings. You are helping the strong, grow stronger. Also, many of your seedlings can be eaten, even if they are not fully developed. The ones that can't be eaten should be left on the ground as mulch.

107. I like to plant close together to create a tight garden bed that retains its moisture better and chokes out weeds. Be careful, though, not to plant too tightly or your plants will compete with

each other for nutrients, sunlight, and water. The seed packet should tell you the recommended distance between seeds. I noticed that in most cases you can go just a little closer than the recommendation, but I encourage you to experiment.

108. If you want to try using some old seeds, you should test them first. Do you remember growing beans in Ziploc bags between damp paper towels in first grade? Well, you can do that same thing for most other seeds as well. Try to grow 3 to 5 in a bag, to see if the seeds are still viable.



109. If you purchased a bare root plant, make sure you soak it in water for 3 to 6 hours before you plant. This will prep the roots for planting.

110. If you decide not to remove your peat, toilette paper roll, or newspaper pots before you plant your seedlings, make sure you at least gently cut off the bottom to allow the roots to escape. You also want to make sure that you cut off any part of the pot that sticks up above the ground, because it will pull the moisture out to the soil as it dries out.

111. Planting in clay heavy soil can be tricky. Clay tends to heat up in the sun, which could cook your seeds and stop germination. Clay also tends to crust over when it dries, making it difficult for your seedlings to break through. You can help by keeping the soil moist and covering the seeds with vermiculite instead of the clay heavy soil.

112. Most of the time you'll find yourself planting in evenly spaced rows, but sometimes the seed packet suggests placing a few seeds in a hill/mound. It isn't a bad idea to place 3 to 6 seeds in a cluster, but building up a hill or mound may not work for your climate. The goal is to keep the seeds moist, but not to drown them. Therefore, you should place your seeds in a small recess if you live in the desert, in a hill/mound if you live in a rainy area, or on the flat if it works better with your watering system.



113. After planting a seedling, make sure that the soil is pressed firmly around the seedling to prevent air pockets from drying out the roots. Don't press too hard. You don't want to compact the soil, just firm it up.

114. Protect your newly transplanted seedlings from the wind with row covers, sheets, or cloches. I cut the tops and bottoms off of gallon milk jugs and place them over my seedlings to block the wind. As described in tip number 18, make sure to leave the bottom attached on one side, so you can fold it back and place a stone on it. This will prevent the jug from blowing away.



Soil, Fertilizing, Mulch & Compost

115. A moist well drained soil is the best for gardening. It encourages biotic and fungal diversity, which is highly beneficial. There are tons of symbiotic relationships between the different life forms. The more variety, the more relationships, the better your garden will be.

116. Organic fertilizers are safer than chemical.

Chemical fertilizers build up salts in your soil which will eventually destroy your soil. In addition, these salts kill off worms, which are incredibly important to the nutrient cycle of your garden and keep your soil

from compacting. Whenever possible use natural and organic fertilizers such as compost.



117. I don't suggest using chemical fertilizers, but here is a tip if you decide you want to. High nitrogen fertilizers encourage healthy top growth, which is great for your lettuces, spinaches and chard. Be careful using high nitrogen fertilizer on other plants like potatoes. This will create excess top growth and delay fruiting.

118. Take advantage of organic nitrogen-rich fertilizers. To get a slow release of nitrogen you can add grass clippings and other greens directly to your garden as mulch. For a quicker boost, you can make a tea by soaking and mashing the greens in some water and then



using the water to fertilize your garden. You can also make a urine tea by diluting 1 part urine with 20 parts water.

119. Be careful though not to add too much green mulch like grass clippings. They can produce a lot of heat while decomposing, which can harm your plants and even kill them.

120. Another great way to create a liquid fertilizer is to use compost. Mix your compost in a barrel with equal parts of water. Stir it and let it settle, then you can use the water to fertilize your plants. Dilute your compost tea 4 parts to 1 for your seedlings. Once all your tea is used up, just add more water. If you have a rain barrel, they make great compost tea.



121. The longer the growing season, the more nutrients your plants require. This is one of the advantages of mulch. A slow release of nutrients throughout the year really does help, but sometimes it isn't enough. Therefore, you'll need to add compost throughout the season as well. Late spring and early summer are the best times to add some compost. Simply pull back your mulch and scratch the compost into the soil staying at least 1 inch away from your stems.



122. For most gardens there is no need to fertilize in the fall or winter. Trees however, could benefit from a little fertilizer in the fall. It helps them with root development and disease prevention.

123. It is always best to plan to fertilize before a rain. The rain helps the garden absorb the nutrients.



124. If you don't cover your soil with mulch, it will form a crust on the surface. Before you go to plant you can drag a rake over the area a couple of times to break up the crust and allow for easy planting.



125. Rose bushes love the potassium. The easiest way to get them the potassium they want is to bury your banana peels near their roots. You don't have to bury them deep, and if you mulch, you just pull it aside and place underneath. No need to dig at all.

126. To make digging easier moisten the ground the night before, or a few hours before you start.

127. Mulch is a wonderful thing. It suppresses weeds, holds moisture in the ground, creates an environment for good bugs to live, keeps the root zone cool in the summer and slowly adds organic material to your soil. You should have 4 inches of mulch in your garden and continuously add it as needed. You can use



wood chips, grass clippings, dry leaves, hay, old plant stems, seaweed or pretty much any organic material.

128. An erarenado (air-re-nah-doe): If you are short on mulch you can replace the organic material with rocks. Yes that is right, rocks. Rocks also help hold moisture, keep the root zone cool and create a habitat for good bugs to live in. Use smaller rocks on the bottom and larger ones on the top. The optimum depth is 9 to 12 inches. Rocks actually gather moisture at night from condensation and help water your plants for you. This is especially useful in deserts and is currently used on the Canary Islands.

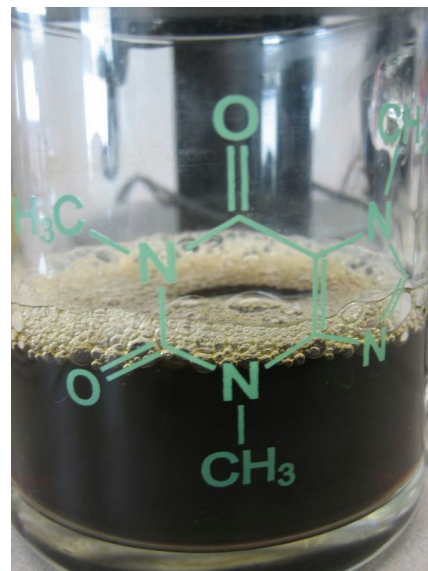
129. You can and probably should grow your own mulch. If you plant things like Fava Beans, then you can add nitrogen to the soil while they grow, harvest a crop of beans, then cut the stalks down and lay them down as mulch for next year. Lentils are a wonderful thing to rotate into your crops. You can also try sorghum or sudex. Both are summer grains with tall stalks that can be cut down before the seed and used as mulch.



130. Used tea bags are a great addition to your soil. You can add them to your compost, tear them open and sprinkle them in your garden, or keep them whole and add as a layer of mulch to the top of a potted plant.

131. Caffeine is a natural herbicide so make sure that your compost contains a variety of organics and isn't only composted tea and coffee grounds.

132. Leftover tea and coffee grounds acidify soil. You can apply it to acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, gardenias and blueberries as a mulch to keep the pH of the soil acidic.



133. The organic material from grass clippings, leaves and used up vegetable stems from your yard contain valuable nutrients and minerals. Don't throw them out or burn them! Make sure you are composting them and putting them back into your garden so future plants can take advantage of them. In addition, all of your kitchen scraps should be composted as well, to improve your soil naturally.

134. Don't use grass hay as mulch because it is usually full of weed seeds. These can spread rapidly and take over your garden. Wheat straw is a better option because it usually contains less weed seeds.



135. Wait 10 days after transplanting your seedlings to fertilize them. It takes them that long to send out new feeder roots and begin their most active growth stage.

Starting a New Bed

136. When creating a new raised bed, line the bottom with newspapers or cardboard. They kill all of the existing plants and prevent the seeds from growing by preventing access to the light. The black and white pages are printed with soy ink so they decompose nicely. The slick colored pages aren't printed with organic inks, so you probably shouldn't use those in your garden.



137. New beds need soil amendments and double digging for that extra kick start.

138. Compost and mulch are extra important in dry climates. Even a small 5% increase in organic material quadruples the soil's ability to hold moisture.

139. Each spring before you are ready to plant it is good idea to add some compost to your beds. Make sure to do this three weeks before you plan to plant, to allow time for your compost to integrate and stabilize with your soil.

Container Gardening

140. Container plants need more nutrients than your ground plants, because when you water you tend to wash the nutrients out. Make sure you add compost or compost tea on a regular basis to ensure healthy growth.

141. When container gardening make sure your soil is well drained. This means making sure you use good soil and have holes on the bottom of your containers. Make sure the water leaving your container has a place to go. You can catch it in a tray, so the deep roots can take advantage of the water as they need it. You can place your container on the ground over a bed of rocks. Or you can catch the water from multiple containers into a central barrel. The runoff water has a lot of nutrients in it, so you can save it to use on other plants. Or the next time you water.



142. Mobile garden: place your container garden on wheels, so that you can move your plants into or out of the sun as needed.



143. To help your potted plants retain their moisture you can use a diaper liner. Just put it in the bottom of the pot before you add your soil.



144. To help your potted plants retain their moisture you can use sponge. Just put one in the bottom of the pot before you add your soil.

145. With large pots that are too heavy, you can lighten them up by placing packing peanuts in the bottom before you put in your soil. Use your judgment as to how much you need, but I suggest no more than half. Then lay an old t-shirt or burlap sack over the packing peanuts and add your soil. Now you are ready to plant.

146. Similar to the packing peanuts you can use pop cans, plastic seedling pots, or other packaging to prefill your large pots, to make them lighter and save on soil.



147. Don't use garden soil to fill your containers/pots. It is more likely to contain diseases, weed seeds and bad insects. In addition, you aren't guaranteed the proper texture or drainage.

Watering

148. The number one thing to remember when you water is that your plants absorb water through their roots. Therefore, you need to water long enough to get the water to drain deep down into the soil where the roots are. Water less often for a longer duration.

149. Do what you can to keep a source of water close to your garden. The closer the better. A spigot at the entrance or even in the center of your garden will prove itself useful when watering, cleaning tools, rinsing harvested vegetables, and more.



150. All plants need water to survive. It is how they absorb nutrients from the soil, and carry nutrients throughout the plant. Remember though that each variety of plant is different and likes different amounts of water. Be sure to watch for wilting and adjust your watering accordingly.

151. Overwatering is just as bad as under watering. You can drown your plants and cause the roots to rot. Roots need air as well as water, so make sure your soil is fluffy and well drained and only water if the top inch of soil is dry.

152. If you find that you have over watered your plants you can pour a little hydrogen peroxide on the roots to help the plant recover. This gives the roots more oxygen and helps fight off fungus and root rot.



153. Ollas are a great way to get water to the roots. You can buy unsealed ceramic jugs and bury them next to your plants with the lid barely sticking out. Then you fill up the jugs with water. The water will slowly leak out and water the roots of your plants. You can also use plastic milk jugs for ollas. Poke some holes in the bottom with a nail, then bury it and fill it with water. The water will slowly drain deep into your soil watering the roots. This doesn't work too well for seedling plants with short roots, but it is worth doing for your perennials with well developed roots.

154. Water can get expensive, so you want to be efficient with it. Soaker hoses are very efficient when you bury them under your mulch. The trouble with a soaker hose, though, is that if there is a leak, they are not easily patched.



155. Don't forget to start collecting rain water with barrels. If you are crafty, you can put your rain barrels on a timer and use drip lines to water your garden with rain water.



156. For efficient water usage use a drip style emitter rather than a sprinkler system. Sprinklers spray the water through the air, so it is hard to keep the water from going where you don't need it, plus some is always lost to evaporation.

157. The excess water from your steamed or boiled dinner vegetables contains a lot of nutrients. Don't pour them down the drain. Pour it into some of your house plants. You'll be surprised at the boost they get.



158. Check your container plants often. They tend to dry out quick. You can use your finger to gently test the soil. If the top inch of soil is dry, your plant needs some water.

159. Sometimes you won't notice that you are not watering deep enough because your plants will adapt by growing shallow roots. Shallow roots will cause your plant to be drought sensitive, making it more sensitive to changes in watering. One way to see if you are watering deep enough is to purchase a moisture gauge and stick it in as deep as your roots.

160. A good rule of thumb is to give your plants at least 1 inch of water a week, either through rain or watering. In the desert, I water deeply every other day. Sometimes, when it is very hot I water twice a day. Wilting means not enough water, yellowing means too much water.

161. When you transplant your seedling, make sure to give them some water, but be careful not to overwater them.

162. A good rule of thumb is that plants with thinner leaves need more water than plants with thick leaves.

163. Try to water during the cooler parts of the day to conserve water. During the heat of the day you will lose more water to evaporation. Don't take the rule too far though. If your plants are wilting during the hot part of the day and your soil is dry, give them some water.

164. In early spring your trees and bushes need water to get going and start making leaves. If you don't get a good rain every two weeks, make sure you give them a good deep watering.

165. It is a good idea to water your soil before you lay down your mulch. Then water your mulch. This will ensure a good amount of moisture as your garden gets started.



166. Seedlings are really sensitive to drying out, because their roots are not very deep. You will most likely need to water them once or twice a day until the roots get established.

167. In the heat of Arizona summers, I sometimes find myself watering every day to keep my plants alive. Even then, my plants still wilt, but once evening comes they perk back up.

168. During these hot months it is a good idea to provide a 40% to 50% shade. You can use shade cloth or companion plants to accomplish this.



Pests

169. Out of the world's insect population more than 98% of them are beneficial and only less than 2% of them are harmful. So try to focus on encouraging the good insects and targeting the bad with organic traps.



170. One way to discourage bad insects is to welcome predators like birds and lizards by creating habitats for them. Try to have piles of rocks for lizards, a pond for frogs, flowers for butterflies and bees, and trees to shelter the birds.

171. Planting a variety of plants together helps build a healthy garden. Aromatic plants tend to repel bad insects, so try to mix them in. Things like marigolds (right)



garlic, chives, rosemary, basil, peppermint not only smell good, but create a great insect repellent.

172. You can also try attracting good insects by planting these flowers: coreopsis aka calliopis, feverfew, and sweet alyssum(right).



173. The first step to pest prevention is healthy, fertile soil. Healthy soil equals healthy plants. Healthy plants are more capable of fighting off diseases and recovering from insect damage.

174. Weed **early** and weed **often**. Weeds are easiest to pull when they are small. You will also be pulling less weeds if you pull them before they go to seed. I suggest you weed before you plant, a couple weeks after you plant and throughout the season.

175. Weed prevention is just as important as pulling weeds. Mulch is a great way to prevent weeds and keep your soil moist. You can even use things like thick plastic. You just poke a hole in it when you are ready to plant. This also helps extend your season if you are in a colder climate.



176. Laying down a few sheets of newspaper before you add your mulch will also help prevent grass and weeds from growing up through your mulch.

177. Hydrogen peroxide is a great tool for killing any diseases that may be on your tools. Make sure to keep them clean to prevent the spread of disease.



178. Don't forget to clean your flats or pots before reusing to prevent the spread of diseases. Usually hot water and soap will do the trick, but sometimes a fungus can survive. You may also need to use bleach or hydrogen peroxide to sterilize them as well.

179. I haven't tried this, but some people say you can use coffee grounds to reduce pests in your garden. I put coffee grounds in my compost, but I am not sure if that is enough. I am pretty sure it has to be on the surface.

180. Cinnamon can also make a natural fungicide. Mix it into your potting soil before you plant your seeds to prevent damping off.



181. One way to prevent cutworm and caterpillar attacks is to place a collar of newspaper or cardboard around the stems of your transplants. The worms crawl on the ground and will be unable to find their way up the stems to the leaves.

182. You can trap fruit flies with apple cider vinegar. Just mix $\frac{1}{4}$ cup apple cider vinegar with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water and 1 tablespoon of dish soap. Then place it in a shallow dish. The flies will land in it and drown.



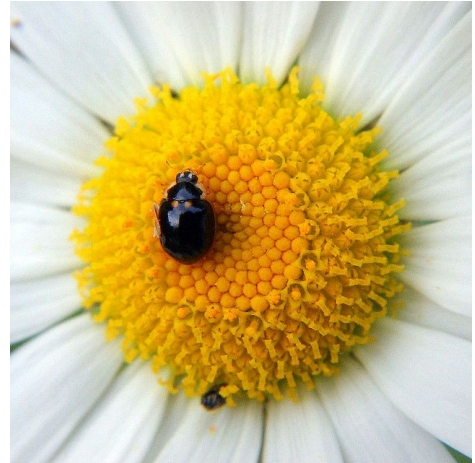
183. Aphids – One of my least favorite bugs. The way I deal with aphids is through strong healthy plants. I also plant extra in case they kill a plant or two. You can also do one or all of the following:

184. Try blasting them off with a good spray of the hose.

185. Try wrapping tape around your hand sticky side out and patting the underside of the leaves.

186. Buy some lady bugs to eat your aphids.

187. Attract lady bugs to your garden with pollen heavy flowers with flat surfaces like Sunflowers and Feverfew. Ladybugs are also attracted to herbs like Cilantro, Fennel and Dill. You can also try a product like Predalure, <http://www.agbio-inc.com/predalure.html>



188. Buy and attract Green Lacewings. They also eat aphids.

189. When you buy bugs be careful to buy ones raised in captivity. Wild harvested bugs can carry parasites and diseases that can spread to the local good bug population. Try these companies <http://www.biobestgroup.com/> and <http://www.insectlore.com/>

190. You can plant marigolds in your garden as a deterrent.

191. Spray the underside of your leaves with an organic insecticidal soap.

Slugs will eat your plant to death if you are not careful. Here are some ways to deal with them:

192. If you place a deep saucer filled with beer in your garden, the slugs will be attracted to it, fall in and drown.



193. They also say you can spray leftover coffee on your leaves to deter slugs.

194. Slugs hate the way copper feels, so wrapping a copper tape around the base of your plant will keep slugs and snails away.

Here are some homemade insecticidal sprays that may help you:

195. You can steep onion or garlic casings in water to make a spray to ward off aphids and spiders.

196. If you mix cayenne powder and garlic in water and spray it on your leaves you will deter leaf eating pests.

197. You can also sprinkle cayenne powder on the ground to deter dogs, cats and other mammals away from your plants.

198. Try mixing two teaspoons of dish soap into a spray bottle with some warm water to kill off aphids. Just apply directly to the insects and the bottom of your leaves.

199. Damping-off fungus can be controlled by pouring a bit of chamomile tea around the roots of your seedlings.

200. You can dilute 1 part milk with 9 parts water and spray it lightly on plants to control powdery mildew.

201. You can also buy botanical insecticides at your home & garden store. In my opinion these are the best kind because the

poisons are derived from other plants and unlike synthetics, they break down rapidly and don't build up in your soil or on your plants.

202. With all of these, you'll have to re-apply after a good rain.

203. Diatomaceous earth is a safe organic insecticide that you can use against shelled insects like beetles. In order for it to work it must be kept dry. A good way to keep some handy is to put some in a large salt or seasoning shaker.



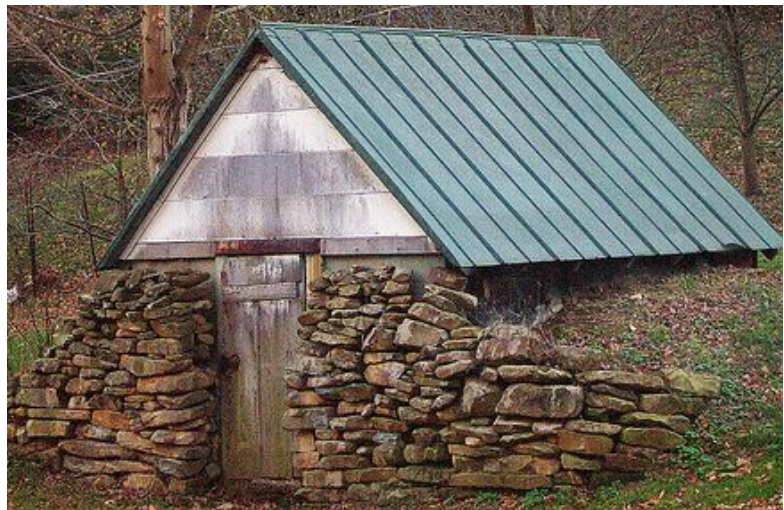
Harvest

As the old saying goes, “You reap what you sow.” Harvesting is my favorite part of gardening. There is nothing better than seeing your hard work pay off. Here are some things that master gardeners do, that will help you make the most of your harvest.

204. Pick your garden first thing in the morning. This is the best time because your produce has the most moisture and nutrients after they have had a night to recover and before they try to survive another summer day.

205. Create places to store both chill items and dry items. Find a place in your fridge for your greens, roots, and other vegetables. Then put your onions, garlic, sweet potatoes, potatoes, shallots and tomatoes in a dark pantry or root cellar.

206. If you don't have one already, build a root cellar. A root cellar is a below ground pantry, like a basement. It is passively cooled by the earth and will help your harvest last longer.



207. Grow produce that stores itself. Things like dry beans, garlic, onions, sweet potatoes, potatoes, shallots and winter squashes will keep for months in a cool, dry place. Start with the best produce and allow it to cure, then place it in your root cellar. It's that easy. Remember, any produce with blemishes doesn't store as well, so just eat that first and save the rest for later.

208. Store onions in a cool dry dark place like a closet or root cellar by hanging them in tied off nylons.



209. As mentioned earlier in Planting, you need to learn how to succession plant so you can have a steady harvests. If you plant in waves, then you'll harvest in waves.

210. In late winter when you are planning next year's garden, take a look in your storage. What do you have too much of? What did you run out of? Make sure



you adjust what you plant based off last year's harvest, so you can have the right amount this year.

211. Harvest your broccoli, snap peas, bush beans, and summer squashes while they are still young and tender. Not only do they taste better this way, but the plant will be more productive giving almost twice as many baby vegetables than if you waited for them to become mature.

212. Plant “shoulder season” fruits. Some varieties of strawberries and raspberries ripen early in the summer or late in the spring before your other plants can start producing. This allows you to pick and freeze them without competing with your summer vegetable preservation time. Also, late ripening apples and fall raspberries will also compete less for your time.

213. The easiest way to preserve your harvest is by freezing. When you do, make sure to divide it into small batches. If done in small batches, you will be able to sneak in your preservation time throughout your busy schedule without setting aside large blocks of time. In addition, small bags of veggies can be portioned better for cooking and mixed and matched with other bags for better variety.



214. Learn how to can. Storing your produce at room temperature in jars not only prevents waste, but also cuts on refrigeration costs. Most canned foods can last over a year allowing you to enjoy your harvest all year.



215. You can also easily extend the shelf life of your harvest by dehydrating it. Either build a solar dehydrator or buy an electric one, dry your harvested celery, mushrooms, peppers, tomatoes and fruit, then put them in airtight containers and store. Dried fruit makes a great snack and dried veggies are great for cooking with.

216. Your car can make a great solar dehydrator. This works best on herbs. Start by laying out some newspaper on one of your seats. Then place your herbs on the paper in a single layer. Finally roll up the windows, close the doors and park in the sun. They will dry quickly and leave your car smelling great.



217. Plant crops that re-grow after you harvest them. Chard, asparagus, broccoli, celery and lettuces all grow back if you take a little off the top. This way you can plant once and harvest over and over again.



218. Replant the roots and root cuttings from harvested root vegetables. If you cut off the bottom of your leaks when you go to cook them, you can plant the bottom again. It will grow into a new plant. I haven't tried this yet, but I assume it will work for beets and radishes too.

219. Network for free harvest. There are usually people with fruit trees or gardens larger than they pick by themselves. Be sure to check your local gardening club, online boards and local freecycle groups for people with too much on their hands. I know that I would let people take what they wanted if they would help me pick my 7 pomegranate trees.

220. Trade for what you don't have. Trading with other gardeners benefits both of you. You both get rid of some excess and gain something you don't have. You can also trade your canned goods, eggs, or dairy. Be creative.

221. Don't forget to save your seeds. If you liked the way a particular plant's fruits taste, save, dry and store its seeds. That way you can try planting them next year and get more of what you like. In addition you can save some money on seeds the following year. Some seeds that are pretty easy to save are dry beans, melons, tomatoes and winter squash.



What Next?

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2. Connect with Stephen Shade

Website: www.livingoffgridguide.com

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Note: All of these references were pulled between Nov and Dec of 2014. Some of the links may not be available anymore.

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Tip 002 - Books

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Tip 005 - Roses

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Tip 008 - Tools

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Tip 009 - Matts

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Tip 10 - Dirty Nails

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Tip 12 – Quart Planter

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Tip 13 – Garden Knife

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Tip 016 - Frozen Pot

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Tip 021 - Luffa Plant

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Tip 22 - Table Cloth Carrier

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Tip 24 - Insulate with Bubble Wrap

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Tip 26 - TP Planter

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Tip 27 - Reflector

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Tip 30 - Shovel Measuring Tape

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Tip 35 - Pallet Compost

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Tip 36 – Cold Frame

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Tip 38 – Egg Carton

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Tip 40 - winter in the garden

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Tip 044 - Nursery Sign

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Tip 047 - USDA Cold Hardiness Map

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Tip 50 - Lap top

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Tip 52 - Community Garden

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mlinksva/5874113414/in/faves-120759336@N06/>

Tip 54 - Mix Growing

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Tip 55 - Square Beds

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Tip 58 - Asparagus

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Tip 60 - Pricey Mangos

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/batmoo/5650811977/in/faves-120759336@N06/>

Tip 61 - White House Garden

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Tip 63 - Potatoe Boxes

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Tip 67 - Verticle Gardening

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dougbeckers/7670750028/in/faves-120759336@N06/>

Tip 71 - Planting Instructions

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Tip 75 – Start Indoors

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Tip 77 - Grow Light Shelves

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Tip 79 - Flats

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Tip 80 - Plastic Wrap

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Tip 83 - Muddy Shoes

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Tip 84 - Sky

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Tip 88 - Removing Seedling

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Tip 90 - Compost in hole

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Tip 91 - Watering Can

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Tip 94 - Planting deep

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Tip 098 – Patio Garden

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/topdrawersausage/5893086995/in/photolist-9YKBsc-9L12bh-6paHr3-og98Vt-9VHqdj-9DCpxY-g52spa-8hJgYX-aF38wq-2d3wVY-dcfgEy-oNiqRY-9KXcUZ-ofWepB-c862ry-fpCu3j-dLhqXb-bzK1a9-nNtbMV-og8eUs-6MEptr-6jH72Q-goUXd2-goV1px-6quyiq-2HR2ai-oA4cur-8HZbxm-obc3Tq-7X4w6K-cKmS1Q-fdkb62-dFfXQL-ccAScY-6EJKfL-6MEoi8-bRNpfD-nffVNE-5E3Lhd-9BxFse-4T3Yvq-cZPR19-5n439o-mEGRnp-4ZEdtP-f57s1Q-akVB1M-cZPMzJ-c8Tyks-cZPVqC>

Tip 101 - On Contour furrows

Stephen Shade

Tip 102 - Garlic Up Right

Stephen Shade

Tip 104 - Planting Peas in Gaps

Stephen Shade

Tip 108 - Starting Beans in Plastic bag

Stephen Shade

Tip 112 - Planting in Recesses

Stephen Shade

Tip 114 - Gallon Jug Seedling Protector
Stephen Shade

Tip 116 - Compost Bin
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fragiletender/5332163619/in/faves-120759336@N06/>

Tip 118 - Urin
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/blumenbiene/7322208926/in/photolist-ca3gfY-6sv784-6szfuA-72N2SL-ca3cUA-ca3eBu-74oHft-4Bwe6v-ofX2vL-88V5bd-oxrVWF-cyyDdq-cyyDXf-cyyCNG-cyyBJ3-cyyAgL-ckfHxA-cBq5sJ-52s9R-gQaB9f-7VXoHu-oxqfWf-9iNPRm-oxaXjD-oxrU3k-oxrRQe-ofXTSe-ofWT2w-ofWScq-cyyCnA-cyyz2q-cyyBpQ-cyyARq-cyyzSj-9iEDMo-cyyznJ-s6d4Rh-8qNyVC-78ELii-6scSzS-Koj31-6scCJJ-9iEo1q-9iBfRc-bc8Yyz-cZx2nE-cZx4pu-6aMfyU-5BvVy2-4kUb7M>

Tip 120 – Compost Tea
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rosasay/14677528301/in/photolist-on1aNm-q2cgXA-qY7NWs-qFD2vL-qFLHyZ-qFBRhj-qFLGNM-q2cfW7-qVUoqo-qVUk93-qVUmmJ-qFLJ1X-4bvoh-6MneCB-zWgxc-dUv8We-bSoD9v-czhe3q-4C8b64-czhuNE-hXFMw-4unXAB-kwxNZa-kwzy5C-7GMwC9-7GMzSq-5Gfy96-5Gfy7x-4SExZd-bb3RXT-9U8sn-2PKtpA-3cdQCS-3c9qsK-3c9qUX-ecv4Tn-e1E3EL-9x4ezn-LELh1-qZa1tt-odZQex-rSxcFL-6Re1yo-buoScD-dUAGYy-dUv6RF-dUv7iZ-dUAJyq-8tQWn3-dUv8xp>

Tip 121- Adding Compost
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/crabchick/10067453896/in/photolist-gkCkij-78VUhE-eJgUd9-5fHkBL-bULsP8-6QH3FF-y6EaIf-bu8Uwn-4MsYvi-6DmF8M-4GJiQF-6Eh7ih-6Eh5XW-6EcZqr-6EcXVZ-6Eh8Xj-6EcUbD-6Ed1ge-7GHDLP-9DqCfW-cZF38W-bu9SZ2-dac2Tj-9tZ6md-7YGhkK-gkBQTG-87ujkG-eAjdC-78S7ui-4HKm6n-5VH5Au-6ci4iF-6Eh5cG-aRn1B2-bu8uYP-6KWGG7-7RKfyU-47NTRj-bgq1uZ-bgq1mP-bgq1HR-bgq1eF-bgq1SH-bgq2bH-bgq216-jkFZv-5FWa9A-5FRUeR-6k3tyZ-5FRUda>

Tip 123 – Rain
https://www.flickr.com/photos/wefi_official/5419549971/in/faves-120759336@N06/

Tip 124 – Rake Dirt
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wwwworks/4468307049/in/photolist-7NRf1H-nDE6BG-an2TPf-7AXsYp-an2Pn9-bLyFUv-cp5oyW-7NRf9i-7JD5ft-6egT1u-bvFvAX-4xSB2V-4MNddw-4FaGtM-gTLCgN-bSDdxM-7VqSQy-qKdwsd-4YhK2F-4Yhwhx-dnvHxp-9Nfcsx-K73vm-dqvd5S-vfKPcL-6uFiAV-czYi2q-4ZLQNY-amZ2oK-xPLuvk-xwCn2Z-zckWhS-yVMotw-zb5hv9-iBJ7d-feVDP-dfEbGT-9Wyth4-7Bb5uu-dfCyW-7yF216-4KQDmB-jNWy5-cijr7d-mCd8m-qrfYh-3EK1t-cmZwLG-5dGDBC-cmZxTG>

Tip 127 - Shredded wood Mulch
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rfduck/2563026936/in/photolist-4UubBA-6PxH2b-NEyzE-48HBTE-PU7Tu-8iq6fs-iPq2s-6yMm3x-rBr9N-6H94b4-6iX2nr-nQghe6-o7Ct6J-hsrKP-o7sj28-nQh4tH-o7>

Cut3-nQgmF2-o7skyr-o7E57w-nQh5NB-nQfZNB-o9w36n-Pr6Eo-sdRq54-sdRq92-7ScrGt-51Me6j-9CLEgJ-nQgqLW-nQh7TD-o7CwtW-o5HgGL-nQgjTK-nQggnX-o5HcV7-o9wGBR-nQgw5F-nQfPim-o5GFUW-nQfJv6-nQfNGw-o7DuMW-o5GF8f-nQfpZE-o7BNPd-o7BNHb-o7rCec-nQfAfi-o9w3zP

Tip 129 - Fava Beans
Stephen Shade

Tip 131 – Caffeine
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mararie/136810757/in/photolist-d6c5a-brNZn-dkwVr7-51pHdS-LzbyT-fKA6Kq-a93yAe-4wJX7V-7n9p2Y-4WEBaQ-EqXNQ-dmWPr1-7gdwG9-dWRPKy-bZudRJ-2bPRJo-jHpUrc-59Gk9R-q1ThE9-pmFtP8-qinRuh-q1ZNhc-q1ZNcT-51dUon-8YPhNx-4oiMrb-diX6z8-8d5a53-6an9fd-28cbS-bJHFwF-qoaJsm-bjwYkU-x1UYE-bAMX-8w78P3-x79RW-6j751D-6eXSCu-5zQHdK-EF3h-86yLhr-8KaW9s-9f2ecz-4xz8Se-bginEP-d4EVk-9hQpDb-3qHzv-8SCdWn>

Tip 134 – Wheat Straw
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pmarkham/3168865359/in/photolist-5Q2ggD-amfh2s-fMbQec-4NfkE-eBAzpA-gCsqQZ-8jb2go-edKfbR----5t9sDL-8X16JG-6CcdYg-65xkUZ-7gcCuh-2wZVsD-6v6AZZ-hCcpU-bA2ksR-8s2ywS-4fnWdM-bKxsG2-qFq2cA-dNpTiZ-7Y6pNG-cbQfto-9AWWGy-8jaXk1-pU2Vga-dBBGzS-edQVqu-edK8jn-edKj32-5bBxAF-48sN4Y-occ6g2-7q47JD-6GmPRB-4FPYwM-edQZW1-edQZoU-8c9RkB-q9bWdf-62rNoa-5MPo2x-4CYYJ-eEwZ3Z-cFdXUh-5CSjub>

Tip 136 - Cardboard under raised bed
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/organicgardeninginfo/7458961000/in/photolist-cn88eS-btLRC-4UkieX-7YGcMe-6FLgja-dGo42B-7UxR3y-tacgKa-jDAGp-oxU3Y-dphxo6-6PhDXW-oMQqXV-56CiJH-gHY2Tz-ovByUs-4ShWNF-4Sn9nW-4Sn9fj-7WouTo-TbDyj-9DJepn-cUBdiu-9NfQiD-ggPwzP-5S4UN7-6ibhJR-8iTKTT-bMBFRt-yTQy-5V7TmV-8WpfJB-8WsjGY-8Wpfo8-4BbuDy-4Ahm4F-bGbusa-ogafigj-5WWE2V-8EfvYC-4x9wtK-as276W-cwCQq9-4ksDSy-385muV-7WCHPV-7WFWA1-7WFWx3-3aULn5-5F6oPE>

Tip 141 - Run Off From Base of Plant
Stephen Shade

Tip 142 - Tree on Wheels
Stephen Shade

Tip 144 - Sponge In Pot
Stephen Shade

Tip 146 - Cans as Filler
Stephen Shade

Tip 149 - Water Spigot

Stephen Shade

Tip 152 – Hydrogen Peroxide

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/48726352@N08/8165563252/in/photolist-7hXCyU-7gkJRA-nUBdtK-h19jXt-aCodCa-eBdXQu-fr82KS-9RW14k-aC1soR-gynT5-86C8aU-8Fzybp-5wEDF4-qAVihF-qTm3C2-6gqyhe-kjjqQ8-dJwJ9D-dJwHoF-dryDtj-ay7CJc-ay7CDR-5QSt2N-6gquqn-9vn6ut-cZARGb-9DvT3y-Y5qQy-piqbK7-8ARoy3-6QQd3x-aCodUt-4DE1DR-gynWn-dMQALV-8WB4ix-mAkaMh-Y5qPy-827ifT-6gqueK-4kRTmW-6wQMYB-echYvS-3JQKSG-cZAR6y-8q5rr3-8q2gZ4-8q5rjG-8q5ruh-nuXhz6>

Tip 154 – Soaker Hose

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jessicareeder/7061989639/in/photolist-bL3xu4-6y9R5o-6qCaQQ-eF48pH-5sDN1C-8fvQBE-6PybE4-8sB9U6-co3bR7-9arsHK-8Cwih6-7PamFQ-bL3wUp-7ZmKN6-9arsEX-bDrACS-ahtbyB-7VXzG9-c6gjzJ-M6gCg-o3Fd5y-ok8JdW-9z3KSr-ohsMeP-ohsM9t-9yKYNS-9yKYJJ-9yKYEQ-nKHhm3-9HV3bp-9yPc5Y-9yL7tc-9yL1Yj-eNV7Qj-9yP8dW-9yPbYC-9yP6U1-9HV2Zr-9z6Mij-9z3Ljx-9z3L28-9yGZWi-9yL23G-8yfCVW-9yKYAA-9yGXE8-bC2HuW-5iJ5Qx-rMZHe-6qsCeC>

Tip 155 – Rain Barrel

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonva/4898729362/in/faves-120759336@N06/>

Tip 157 - Steamed Veggie Water

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Tip 160 – 1 inch rain water

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wwwworks/8687020067/in/photolist-dt4jdF-dieuhy-bQiwVD-cgvclW-9ANDXa-7PP6V8-fXRoDS-q6NSnC-akzKey-ftvZAC-5gC6Xy-ahJpKa-fXRRBt-eSiRFE-9EZz2k-amtwap-aeypUp-eeDfq4-7XLH7P-fr7oLC-pX8Aau-nUuWh7-9wZkgq-q6syhv-a5FMNo-quda2-nSDuzJ-6o63KT-rqxtzJ-7k2eiP-nSEhTT-7k2efR-8soQeP-6Qndwh-6dJj1A-8oE2xw-pr93Dv-qnQevq-qkBGR9-q6m1K5-cHh5GN-oRqzna-fr7oN7-dzgWBD-dzzqVZ-4xzCsc-6Pe8DX-r4Yhe8-6QnDrA-6QnDzh>

Tip 168 – Shade cloth

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/scottzona/4668960957/in/photolist-87zDqR-9LEFJX-caZ4k9-caYVks-caYXzU-caYYES-caYWtd-caZ5jw-caYZRm-caZ3fb-caZ8tA-caZo1u-caZcWY-caZtmY-cb1oEu-caZmS9-cb1hnC-caZ9Du-cb1teq-caZf2q-caZe1d-cb1kbf-caZ26b-cb1jjs-caZrg3-caZ6km-caZkvf-cb1m3C-caZga1-cb1mU1-caZumj-caZp6b-caZaLs-caZsnf-caZh9W-cb1nPq-caZigq-caZbRG-caZvkY-cb1ssu-caZ7sN-caZE5Q-caZMJ1-cb1qFS-cb1ik3-cb17tE-4grfS-adSYi3-f9Z385-nbknfp>

Tip 169 – Lady bugs

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jurvetson/482054617/in/photolist-e9JACZ-e9JAvp-kv11f-e9QeWU-51pE5X-9zajKC-6i4pPH-JAE3v-e9JABB-d1pgYG-4XGzjT-82KvEm-9Z8SzD-eayWoU-q1VLj-d67Z4-87GrcN-87Deki-8rZsU5-NECd2-9z7iDP-KDc9V-4Fp9cy-4KXv84-4HZa28-eigrdu-w195y-rh>

Xzj8-9zKXNy-5HFCfW-5Zrkku-647SzF-9k2hTZ-6E2y93-e8gXBn-pHik9u-Q8KHw-mBp9fe-7AyV
4A-idhrd-eEbU2-53miWd-2GjG3i-2GjECR-9bNjX7-Ptd9u-4jaurj-dBoEZ-fERJqW-52mUrK

Tip 171 - marigolds

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jcapaldi/2838388152/in/photolist-5jPtUL-4SJiEt-EA2b-6wutVc-pzCxm-a3P6mu-4YcAn4-6AXmDh-77tirH-21k1HS-ex522Z-6wuuPc-5jPshC-6TVNCK-raibq-dYc6Jz-9W9S3Y-81MWUf-2pXynr-4YgQZy-ex51Wa-6puHzA-a6Sfot-6VFcj-9Vv8EY-ex8cXy-oB7ZTr-598rZu-4E6brX-ex8d5h-cB9wib-49a7r-oz4AnT-4b8Yo5-oTC4j6-4W5kMP-ex51Wc-ni47j5-okrztw-omsTfn-c38JT3-4mnMYy-6fj5NX-ex529z-4uRVwp-9ct6WT-owRFi-6SAtk1-5odUox-nJu2KH>

Tip 172 – Sweet Alyssum

https://www.flickr.com/photos/hortulus_aptus/2280802466/in/photolist-4txH7s-ecbJnU-bE8qUz-qtSNrz-qu3GCK-qtZ8eJ-p3LyxD-h4rCT-dXNDi-o7QGgd-bCfUSv-7beTER-c4ijK-6ycRM3-6ycT5o-oowFG1-98UDnF-61As9C-7Xj5eK-8qMP34-9jMWmt-9jMVQp-98XMtC-3iB2u-hnoYV-oaGPCe-8pSqYn-8pSqEX-9jMWVK-eMnE5w-pyoyok-dEVWb-2Q54h3-ekaoMZ-2PZztV-2Q56qS-5pu5K-nypHNx

Tip 175 – Lettuces in Mulch

https://www.flickr.com/photos/powerhouse_museum_photography/2056406104/in/photolist-48HBTE-Pr6Eo-PU7Tu-sdRq54-sdRq92-8iq6fs-7ScrGt-iPq2s-6yMm3x-rBr9N-6H94b4-51Me6j-6iX2nr-9CLEgJ-nQghe6-o7Ct6J-hsrKP-o7sj28-nQh4tH-o7Cut3-nQgmF2-o7skyr-o7E57w-nQh5NB-nQfZNB-o9w36n-nQgqLW-nQh7TD-o7CwtW-o5HgGL-nQgjTK-nQggnX-o5HcV7-o9wGBR-nQgw5F-nQfPim-o5GFUW-nQfJv6-nQfNGw-o7DuMW-o5GF8f-nQfpZE-o7BNPd-o7BNHb-o7rCec-nQfAf-i-o9w3zP-o9w3se-o7JWpk-6PtvA4

Tip 152 – Hydrogen Peroxide

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/48726352@N08/8165563252/in/photolist-7hXCyU-7gkJRA-nUBdtK-h19jXt-aCodCa-eBdXQu-fr82KS-9RW14k-aC1soR-gynT5-86C8aU-8Fzybp-5wEDF4-qAVihF-qTm3C2-6gqyhe-kjjqQ8-dJwJ9D-dJwHoF-dryDtj-ay7CJc-ay7CDR-5QSt2N-6gquqn-9vn6ut-cZARGB-9DvT3y-Y5qQy-piqbK7-8ARoy3-6QQd3x-aCodUt-4DE1DR-gynWn-dMQALV-8WB4ix-mAkaMh-Y5qPy-827ifT-6gqueK-4kRTmW-6wQMYB-echYvS-3JQKSG-cZAR6y-8q5rr3-8q2gZ4-8q5rjG-8q5ruh-nuXhz6>

Tip 180 - cinnamon

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/trophygeek/7309903584/in/photolist-fLLJ4B-c8XaEq-6V9kq-be8wbe-qrqpm7-diSKRU-9F5VmM-dPzw5b-9QaBk9-7hdUQB-c8XbM5-73jJnj-d5WXMh-djpENb-ccFJPC-bVju1Z-9Px8fJ-7u8KTQ-c8XcwY-ccFJMy-9Fety6-cNtX3L-kNdqBN-8ruC1m-iv95CM-oTDq4C-cNXrbQ-cNpAqE-8pxuBj-oUYUyx-bVSuhU-qr7Fac-kNdqKJ-d6tchS-c8Xaa9-c8Xba5-4LNiLE-86m7Qy-4Wg6TJ-937dJC-dupTkF-cAe5zf-d5WXUY-d5WXCE-kNbqsK-7cmc36-dZ23NY-3cvc43-3fhjCt-diSTHC>

Tip 182 - Vinegar Trap

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Tip 187 – Lady Bug Flower

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/chidorian/15598321/in/photolist-2nWQz-9rXAzU-9dXU8d-5fez9L-oXQ6er-3qKMv-8EkWAI-5qKzQc-ojhFXD-8qxZoU-Hr2yu-9SLkNn-4FoYv-oyKwU7-2swZg6-37WwJC-frpLE8-2kmR2T-ikLGL-51Zqvs-bC1yFQ-idhrd-fMvNG-poDQHr-7QY4Ky-cWdEjs-9URjts-tFaf4-8onaSj-p4Sf9C-6GAJPz-6FfVcn-nbQ3P9-5cvjkY-a34LAQ-7NESpj-feLU9E-6UzVyM-iXXLZ9-6VaCRk-9Xucri-9Xx5vW-9XucNT-9Xx5Vb-9XucK4-9Xx5GL-un7aBP-6BciF8-6EM6hV-gDX23L>

Tip 192 – beer slug

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/git/537744073/in/photolist-Pw5zx-bFgMuF-6akmKi-692Hmj-deP2Uo-im3m9F-JiRMm-PnYSd-apVCYN-5FuRKm-33h4ja-6KaC5M-9JLMs9-95Y9dU-6JFEA7-33h4fD-bjLqnD-8zfih9-h3EQq-g5ofN-6FUGkr-JiRMC-4eJSLE>

Tip 203 - Shaker

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pboyd04/2081320295/in/photolist-4aVj1F-5A64AV-aFrDJt-c4Cdgs-axtq9n-9ob4uZ-7chwT6-ac6JzA-AgGrb-uvxUd-8hqs7m-9K7LKn-gbSiE-amVg18-9Njiva-97ByGq-h8MfJ4-78GS84-3fVeb-dDhuuC-djrWFO-djrWB1-djrX2x-djrWXF-h8MuP7-5bvkwY-9ob4xa-e8tsak-c4CdJ7-78LQ1f-6DMSJ1-ac6Pt9-7NVx25-7NRxWD-pGcTka-gotmQz-gotiMc-gosUbo-7sJmTk-gotnrs-c4CfC7-c4Cfbs-c4Ce9L-7bwkSd-gotpw6-h8MsLS-h8MkVM-h8MrCu-h8NCNv-h8Mjcg>

Tip 206 – Root Cellar

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dok1/2208601679/in/photolist-4naEki-ffCFDS-ff7R8U-6DXq1C-npQBy8-owXfu4-owXaQK-oPrUhH-wkEUP-o52akB-6n68Xs-qFhCCK-4UJANr-4Bd1ZA-ffCGCC-JcSqq-hiHj8C-9QaSQ2-ff7RMG-6fJMzt-8jZ3X1-Q1iJ6-hi2B7e-npqAFB-npqgsN-nFUSjB-6i3Aih-avw4ft-adwayv-auJbDm-auFw4M-ffCGdU-ffCG7A-a7ZUS5-r2fSyQ-6RKEPS-zf2nJ-a8zfSG-6DTge8-giwRrX-7QtdKo-rtH3xD-cUU9t3-ffjKXn-auJaZA-hi2AcP-nNDf2j-8jVFEk-feSyPt-cNj1u3>

Tip 208 - Onion Nylons
Stephen Shade

Tip 210 – Pantry

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Tip 213 – Frozen Raspberries

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Tip 214 – Canning

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Tip 216 - Drying Herbs in Car
Stephen Shade

Tip 217 - Harvest Lettuce

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Tip 221 – Save your seeds

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