

Living Clean & Green!

Get Back to Nature with Organic Gardening and Composting



Gardening is considered by many to be the most relaxing and rewarding hobby or leisure time activity they can participate in. Among the benefits: exercise, connecting to nature and producing something from your own efforts. Organic Gardening adds an environmental aspect to those benefits. Protecting our soil, water and food supply by reducing chemical use, knowing where your food comes from, and improving food diversity are just a few of the reasons that an increasing number of people are turning to organic gardening in their own backyards.



Five reasons to go organic:

For your health

Using fewer chemicals in your garden will result in fewer chemicals in your body.



For your wallet

Organic gardening solutions are less expensive than pricey commercial pesticides and herbicides.



For your planet

Reducing toxic pesticides and herbicides leads to improved air and water quality.



For fun

Gardening is a relaxing and rewarding hobby that continues to increase in popularity.



For the future

Organic gardening and composting leads to better air, water, and soil quality, now and for future generations.



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From the Garden of
Ijams Nature Center

All-Season Green-up Tonic

1 can of beer
1 cup of ammonia
½ cup dishwashing liquid
½ cup fish emulsion
½ cup clear corn syrup or molasses
Mix in large bucket, pour into 20-gallon hose-end sprayer. Spray everything. Apply every 3 weeks throughout the growing season.

(from *Terrific Garden Tonics* by Jerry Baker)



From the Garden of
Ijams Nature Center

General Insect spray

½ teaspoon corn oil
½ teaspoon dishwashing liquid
warm water
fill 32-ounce spray bottle with warm water. Add corn oil and dishwashing liquid. Gently shake. Spray plants weekly if heavily infested. Spray monthly during growing season.



From the Garden of
Ijams Nature Center

All-Season Clean-up Tonic

1 cup baby shampoo
1 cup antiseptic mouth wash
1 cup tobacco tea*
Mix these ingredients in a 20-gallon hose-end sprayer and give everything a good shower in the early evening every two weeks throughout the growing season. *To make tobacco tea, place a handful of chewing tobacco in a gallon of hot water and let it steep until the water is brown.

(from *Terrific Garden Tonics* by Jerry Baker)



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How To Mix Compost

2-3 Parts Brown Material (Dry leaves, Straw, Wood Shavings, etc.)
1-2 Parts Green Material (Manure, Fresh grass clippings, Fresh garden weeds, Food scraps, etc.)
Optional Condiments (These are not essential but will speed things up)

- Garden soil- high in micro organisms
- Finished compost- high in micro organisms
- Blood meal- high nitrogen
- Bone meal- high nitrogen
- Wood ashes- high in potash and carbon
- Crushed rock dust- rich in minerals

