

ORGANIC GARDENING



Juicy orange carrots...

...shiny green capsicums, rich purple eggplants, bright red raddichio — all good to eat and all grown by you in your home or community garden. You thought organic growing might be difficult, but now you know it is easy.

Organic gardening is easy

Organic gardening is an approach to growing food, ornamentals and native plants using a combination of traditional and scientific knowledge.

The principles of organic growing can be applied at any scale — from large commercial farms to container plants on your apartment balcony.

For home and community gardeners, organic growing is low-cost and safe. Organics avoids the possibility of gardeners contaminating themselves and the city's waterways by the erroneous use of synthetic pesticides, fertilisers, fungicides and other biocides.

Growing some of what we eat ensures that food is available when supply chains are constricted.



A knowledge-based practice

Organic gardeners learn about the ecological processes that go on in the garden. We use this knowledge to:

- ⌘ control insect pests without damaging beneficial insects
- ⌘ increase the fertility of our soils
- ⌘ place plants that benefit each other close together
- ⌘ increase the productivity of our gardens.

Healthy soil, healthy plants

Fertile soil is the key to successful organic gardening. Building up the fertility of our soil ensures healthy, disease resistant plants. It provides the nutrients our plants need to grow strong and productive.

We improve soil fertility by adding:

- ⌘ Compost or vermicompost (worm compost)
- ⌘ mulch
- ⌘ organic fertilisers.

Saving seeds...

Many organic gardeners practice seed saving. Seeds are collected from the most productive and healthy plants in a garden, dried and stored until they are planted at the start of the next growing season. Only the seed of non-hybrid herbs, flowers and vegetables is suitable for saving.

Some gardeners exchange their seeds with others. Doing this ensures the continued availability of the plants.

[The Seed Savers' Handbook](#) can help you make a start in seed saving. There may be a seed savers group near you.

INFORMATION: Seed Savers Network,
<https://seedsavers.net>

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA

The principles of organic gardening are sensible and easy to adopt...



"Food plants, grown organically, that have adapted themselves to your garden... will perform noticeably better in your kitchen... good gardening produces good plants and good plants provide wholesome food. Any thinking cook will pick the vital connection between soil, seed, plant and self. It is the strength of regional cooking."

...Jude Fanton, The Seed Savers' Handbook <https://seedsavers.net>

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information, knowledge

use information and knowledge derived from traditional gardening combined with modern science to make your garden productive; use observation and reasoning to learn about your garden

diversity

grow a diversity of plants to obtain a range of foods and as habitat for the beneficial insects that control garden pests

fertile soil

increase the fertility of your garden soil by adding compost, mulch and organic fertilisers; plant legumes — the pea and bean plant family — to build soil fertility

quality plants and seeds

obtain vegetable and herb seeds adapted to your climate and soils; they are more likely to cope with local pests, diseases and climate; non-hybrid seeds can be collected for replanting next season and to exchange with other gardeners

irrigation

install water-efficient irrigation — hand hosing, drip irrigation, porous hose, micro-sprinkler — to conserve water and keep costs down; check on water restrictions that may affect irrigation systems

pest, disease management

use integrated pest and disease management techniques to manage insect pests without damaging the beneficial insects, birds and lizards; crop rotation reduces soil-borne diseases of plants

use local resources

where possible, use resources such as compost, mulch and seeds that come from your region; locally-grown seed is more likely to be adapted to climate, soils and conditions; obtaining gardening needs from local suppliers helps maintain local economies and livelihoods

ORGANIC HORTICULTURE is the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers or ornamental plants by following the essential principles of organic agriculture in soil building and conservation, pest management, and heirloom variety preservation.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organic_horticulture

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