

# Growing A Garden Just Makes Sense

If you haven't been to the produce department of the grocery store lately, you're in for a big

surprise. Vegetable prices have skyrocketed in the last month or so, and they are supposed to go even higher this summer. One way to fight back against the high prices is to grow your



own. Why pay inflated prices for produce that you can easily grow yourself? With a little gardening plot in the back yard, or a few containers on the patio, or a new raised bed where the trampoline used to be, you can raise a lot of your own vegetables, and in doing so, save yourself some money and eat some great veggies as well! Vegetables and fruits, grown in your own backyard, are the healthiest and most flavorful produce you can get. Here are a few of our best suggestions to get your garden started in the right direction or to improve or expand your existing garden.

## Feed your family for \$25 a year.

Year after year we have recommended varieties of vegetables for their great taste or a unique trait. Last year we told you, you can feed your family for \$25 a year. We were serious. With \$25 worth of vegetable seeds, if you have a 50 ft. by 50 ft. garden (2500 square feet) you can grow an amazing garden full of healthy and inexpensive vegetables. All it takes is a little effort and a little know-how. We'll provide the know-how (and everything you need to make it happen), and you make the effort.

Start by using local seeds. At Anderson's Seed and Garden we

search out the best seed growers all over the world and try to provide the best seeds for Cache

Valley at the best prices you can find anywhere. When compared with other retail and wholesale seed sources online and in catalogs, our prices are consistently the lowest we can find. Sure, there might be a few varieties you can find for less, but over-

all, pound for pound, we provide superior seeds in a retail size, at wholesale prices. Buying in bulk costs less, you get the quantity you need, and the seed is always fresh and ready to sprout. Whether you have years of experience or you're just starting your first garden, we (and our experienced staff) can teach you how to be more successful in your garden. Come see us soon! The seeds are all here and Spring Planting Time is upon us!

## Get your seeds soon: Seed shortages expected again in 2011.

The economic slowdown affecting the entire world the last few years has dramatically increased an interest in self-sufficiency, self-reliance and especially in growing vegetables. This increased desire to garden has driven an even greater demand for garden seeds and subsequent seed shortages last year will undoubtedly continue into 2011. In fact, it will probably take another year or two for seed production to catch up to demand. Our best advice is to get your seeds early



while they are still available. As the season progresses, many varieties will run out, and won't be available again until next year. Get those seeds early!

## Seed storage - an inexpensive and easy way to boost your food storage.

For those of you who want to get extra seed to store away and save for a rainy day, these tips will make your efforts even more successful. Most seeds will lose only minimal germination for the

first year or two. After that, you can plan on a slow or a sharp decline in your seed's viability depending on variety. To ensure the best results from your seeds either 1) seal them in a vacuum packed container and store them in a cool, dry

location or 2) keep them in a paper sack, shoe box, or other moisture free container and store them in a cool, dry location. Vacuum packing definitely helps eliminate air and moisture from the seeds which will contribute to their deterioration. Vacuum packed seeds tend to store longer before losing noticeable germination. Both methods work fine, especially if you are rotating your seeds every 2-3 years. Moisture does more damage than colder temperatures does good, so we don't recommend putting seeds in the freezer because of the high moisture content.



## How to prepare your garden for planting.

Prepping your garden properly before planting will increase your success dramatically. Fall is the best time of year to add organic matter to your soil and work it in, but there are a few things to do in

the spring that will help as well. Before planting we apply *Natural Guard Soil Activator* (an organic soil amendment) to the whole garden, about 15-20 lbs. per 2000 square feet. Soil activator is a natural soil amendment that returns essential minerals and nutrients to your soil, and stimulates beneficial soil microbes. Basically it supercharges your soil.

It's also a great time to add small amounts of soil amendment to your soil (1/2 to 1 inch maximum) in the Spring, like a composted manure, garden compost, or a Soil Building Compost. Also, this is a good time to add a general purpose fertilizer like *Ferti-lome Tomato and Vegetable Food* or if you prefer an organic source of nutrient use *Natural Guard's Organic Lawn & Garden Fertilizer*. Till these into the soil as soon as it is workable. You'll get better germination, quicker emergence, and a greatly increased yield. After your plants get growing, use a pre-emergent to stop weeds from taking over your garden. It saves

so much work! We recommend *American Weed & Grass Stopper* or Concern Corn Gluten for a natural alternative. No joke, a pre-emergent will halt 80-90% of your weeds as they germinate.



**Gardening in containers**

Not everyone has a big yard and an equally large garden. Growing vegetables in containers is easy and doesn't require a lot of space to gather a bountiful harvest. We always do a few tomatoes and peppers in planters on the patio (or in the flowerbeds), and it's amazing how much they produce. Cucumbers, squashes, potatoes, pole beans, herbs, and leafy greens all grow well in pots of all shapes and sizes. We've seen some incredible plants grown in Earthboxes that even a Master gardener would envy. This year we have



some new inexpensive grow-baskets for potatoes that look promising (definitely have to try these out) as well as some nice (inexpensive) tomato containers. What container you use, and what you grow in them is only limited to your own imagination.

Just remember that when growing veggies in containers they have different needs than your garden-grown plants. Water is a daily necessity during the summer. We fertilize our containers up to 10 times more than our garden vegetables and flowers, with both slow release (like *ferti-lome Start-N-Grow*) and quick, water-soluble

fertilizers (like *ferti-lome Blooming & Rooting or Nutra-Green*). Be sure to use the best potting soil you can find (you'll never go wrong with *ferti-lome*



*Ultimate Potting Mix*) and allow for good drainage in the bottom of your containers. Use some of these special soil amendments for extra water retention in your pots: coconut coir, *Nutra-gel polymer*, or *Aqua-duct from ferti-lome*. Anything you can do to help your containers hold more moisture during the hot, long days of summer

will save you time and your plants will be happier.

If you have been waiting to start a garden, or looking to expand your garden, this is the year to do it. As produce prices continue to increase, growing a garden just makes more and more sense. Not only is it fun and enjoyable, but it will save you money. And everything that you grow tastes better and is fresher than anything that you would buy at the grocery store. At *Anderson's Seed and Garden* we have the know-how, the seeds and supplies, and everything else that you need to be successful in your garden. With our help, this could be your best gardening year ever.

Photos courtesy of Andrew Rayburn

For our monthly newsletter and gardening information at [www.andersonseedandgarden.com](http://www.andersonseedandgarden.com)

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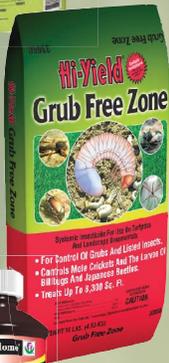
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## 5-Step Lawn Maintenance Program



Step	Recommended Date	What to apply
Step 1	St. Patrick's Day to Easter Around March 15 - April 15	Anderson's Best 16-16-16 and Soil Activator or Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone and Soil Activator or Ferti-lome Weed & Feed with Dimension for pre-emergent weed control
Step 2	From Mother's Day to Memorial Day Around March 15 - April 15	Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone or Anderson's Best 23-3-16 and liquid Weed Free Zone for spot weed control
Step 3	From Independence Day to Pioneer Day Around July 1 - August 1	**Add Natural Guard Grub Control or Hi-Yield Grub Free Zone for 1st Insect Control** Anderson's Best 23-3-16 and Soil Activator
Step 4	Around Labor Day Around September 1 - October 1	**Add Natural Guard Grub Control or Hi-Yield Grub Free Zone for 2nd Insect Control** Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone or Anderson's Best 23-3-16 and liquid Weed Free Zone for spot weed control
Step 5	From Halloween to Thanksgiving Around October 15 - November 30	Ferti-lome Winterizer and Soil Activator or Anderson's Best 16-16-16 and Soil Activator

### DID YOU KNOW?

For controlling lawn damaging insects we recommend *Natural Guard Grub Control* (for sod webworms and grubs) or *Hi-Yield Grub Free Zone* (for grubs and billbugs) applied in April and again in July. This is very important to use as a preventative and is NOT as effective used to control existing problems. For fast killing action for existing problems (24 hour results) we recommend *Hi-Yield Dylox*.

Looking for better results on your weed killing? Try using a liquid herbicide as a spot treatment. We recommend *Ferti-lome Weed-Out* containing Trimec. For more difficult weeds you can't go wrong with Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone. Use either of these products April-May and again in the fall from September - October (for better results mix with *Hi-Yield Spreader Sticker*).

