

Organic Gardening Tips and Techniques

- 1. Be present! Visit your garden daily. You are the best defense for pests and diseases.**
- 2. Build your soil. Add as much organic matter as possible. No tillers. Use a pitch fork to turn your soil in the spring. The longer a crop will be in the ground, the richer the soil needs to be. Healthy soil means healthy plants. Healthy plants are better able to withstand disease and insect damage.**
- 3. Don't over water. Long season crops need to establish strong roots by watering deeply! Shallow watering trains your plants to grow their roots along the surface making them more likely to suffer when deprived of water.**
- 4. Water wisely. Use a hose or watering can at the base of the plants. Water early in the day giving the plants time to dry. This will help prevent fungus and powdery mildew.**
- 5. Site properly. Flowering or fruiting plants need eight to 10 hours of sun.**
- 6. Rotate crops. Don't plant the same thing in the same space year after year. By doing this you will help reduce pest and disease problems, as well as correct nutrient deficiencies.**
- 7. Use a map/photo/journal to track plantings year to year and label all your plants.**
- 8. Mulch your beds. Organic grass clippings or weed free compost will prevent splash back and suppress weeds.**
- 9. Buy the best tools you can afford and take care of them.**
- 10. Keep your garden clean.**
- 11. Plant flowers. Flowers make our veggie gardens pretty and they attract beneficial insects.**
- 12. Be Realistic. No one needs four zucchini plants or six cherry tomatoes!**

Please feel free to contact me.

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