



GREEN GARDENING TIPS

Healthy soil will produce healthy plants that will withstand most disease and insect damage. The best organic matter for bed preparation is compost made from anything that was once alive, for example leaves, kitchen waste, and grass clippings.

Well rotted compost will have a fresh earthy smell and be friable. Seaweed is a fabulous addition to compost as it contains many trace elements and decomposes quickly.



Compost improves soil structure, texture, and aeration, It also increases the soil's water holding capacity. It balances both acid and alkaline soils, bringing PH levels into the optimum range for nutrient availability. It contains micronutrients that are often absent in synthetic fertilizers.

Only dig heavy clay when it is lightly wet, not saturated to prevent compacting it too much. Heavy clay soil can be improved with forking in gypsum, and incorporating in plenty of organic material such as mulched leaf litter, compost, or well rotted horse manure. Fresh manures can burn plants and rob the soil of nitrogen.

Avoid frequent, deep cultivation, which can damage plant roots, dry out the soil, disturb healthy soil organisms, and bring weed seeds to the surface where they will germinate.

If you find earthworms in every spade of soil turned over **you are winning**. Earthworms are nature's tillers and soil conditioners, and manufacture great fertilizer.

Mulching around plants conserves the need for weeding and watering. A 6-8 centimeter thick layer of mulch around the base of most plants is sufficient. Good mulches include bark, leaves, grass clippings (loosely packed or semi-dry), compost etc. Water before and after applying for best results.

Avoid mulching directly against the stem of plants or trunks of trees to avoid disease and pests. Mulch acid loving plants with pine needles which will add acid to the soil as they decompose.

Roses love banana skins. To avoid black spot on roses, keep area under bushes well cleared of debris. To treat powdery mildew, use: 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon oil and one quart of warm water. Mix and then apply by spray bottle. Diluted milk with baking soda also helps mildew or fungus.

For low cost pesticide, mix 1 tbsp liquid dishwashing soap with 1 cup cooking oil; put 3 tbsp of the mixture in 1 quart water. Aphids? Spray infested plants with a very dilute soapy water, saturate well, then spray clear water. Repeat as needed. It works even on the heaviest infestation.

When planting a tree or shrub leave edges of hole rough. 'Glazed' sides restrict roots like a pot.

Weeds? Spot-spray with common full-strength household vinegar, on a sunny day. It's an organic weed killer safe for you & the environment.

Foxglove planted under apple and pear trees increase their storage life. Pear trees produce inferior crops when grass can grow near their roots. Keep ground under fruit trees mulched out to the drip line.

Soaker hoses deliver water directly to the base of the plant, reducing moisture loss from evaporation. Water in the early morning.

To create a pick-me-up for sick plants try dry chamomile flowers soaked for two days, use water as a spray. Comfrey leaf 'tea' also makes a good fertilizer spray. Thyme leaves disinfects problem soils.



1. The Driver

A driver was once stopped by a police officer. He was a good driver and as far as he knew he had done nothing wrong.

The police officer said, "I pulled you over because you were doing 70 clicks in a school zone. There were ten warning signs that the speed limit was 20 kms and you ignored them all."

Just like the driver had ten warning signs, God has given us ten clear warning signs in the Bible. They are called the 10 Commandments.

Have you ever told a lie, stolen something or used God's name as a curse word? If you're like most of us, then the answer is 'yes'. The Bible says:

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. James 2:10

God is saying that by breaking one Commandment we have sinned and will be held accountable for breaking all of them, including adultery and murder!

The wages of sin is death! Romans 6:23a

Sinners are banished to hell because God will not allow sin into His presence. Pretending you are "not that bad" or ignoring hell does not change the fact that you have broken God's laws and will certainly face a horrible, unthinkable future of judgment.

If the story ends here we all are without hope!

2. The Convict

An innocent man approached a judge and volunteered to be executed in the place of a convicted murderer. The judge consented. The next day the judge told the convict he had a decision to make.

"An innocent man has been put to death in your place. If you will accept his payment for your crime, you are free to go. If you will not accept his payment, you will be executed for your crime. Which do you choose?"

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was sinless but voluntarily gave his life to pay the penalty for your sins and mine. (Remember: God's judgment for our sin is death). Three days later Jesus rose from the dead.

God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23b

As a result of Jesus' death in your place, you now have two choices:

Receive both God's pardon for your sins and eternal life by repenting of your sin (admitting and turning from) and placing your trust in the Lord Jesus. (Acts 20:21)

OR

Reject both God's pardon for your sins and eternal life by trusting in anyone or anything other than Jesus to make you acceptable to God, thus bearing the penalty for breaking God's law yourself.

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36

Knowing about Jesus doesn't mean you believe in Jesus!

3. The Skydiver

Skydivers demonstrate their belief in their parachutes every time they jump from an airplane – they have no other hope!

Sinners are converted into Christians when they put their trust in Jesus – trusting only Him (not self or religion!) to take away their sins and give them eternal life.

A Christian is not one who does "Christian" things, but one who has been changed from the inside out as only Jesus Christ can do.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Cor 5:17

Just as entering a garage won't make you a mechanic, attending a church won't make you a Christian. If you would like to receive God's pardon for your sins and the gift of eternal life, consider a prayer like this:

"Jesus, I admit that I've broken your commands and deserve hell. Please forgive me. I believe you paid the penalty for my sins when you died on the cross and rose from the dead. I want to turn from my sin and place my trust in you as my only Lord & Saviour. I am willing to follow you the rest of my life. Thank you for the gift of eternal life. Amen."

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13

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