

GROW A GARDEN



A SHARING OF

**GARDENING WISDOM
FROM**

THE DIY GARDEN DESIGN CLUB!

COMPILED BY
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INTRODUCTION



Hello fellow gardener!

I started the DIY Garden Design Club on the 13th June 2018 to share, educate and form community with fellow gardeners as we live and pursue our passion for growing beautiful gardens. In a short space of time, the club has grown to 70 000 members, gardeners from around the world and has become my happy place. Every day I am amazed at the generosity, kindness and wisdom on offer by our wonderful club members. This e-book shares with you some of the wisdom from the club members to get you started on your own gardening adventure - enjoy!

Picture: Award winning show garden designed by Tasha Tollman - DIY Garden Designer

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Garden landscaped by
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PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR SOIL

The experienced gardener has learnt that a beautiful garden, begins with rich, fertile soil. It is the soil that provides your plants with the vital nutrients, water and air that they need in order to thrive and grow into strong, lush, healthy plants.

Judy Talken

More importantly than buying plants which are expensive is your soil...compost compost and compost.... it is very disheartening when i find my plants are not doing well especially here in the Cape where we have sandy and clay soil.

Janie Owen Tencza

The most important advice I got was feed the soil and the soil will feed the plant. I use A LOT of compost every year and have very little disease or problems. Compost will feed your plants and attract good critters such as worms.

Andrew Ian McEwan Hoole

Compost, compost and compost especially in Sandy soils. Soil health is key!

Shemara GiffAppel Mazzolini

Good soil is essential, but u can work on it while u create yr garden.

Dee Hean

Good soil, access to water, compost and mulching to protect the soil and plants are all essential to a great garden. Learn how to build your soil using nature ie leaves, grass clippings, chip the branches you trim and above all, don't be afraid to learn, experiment and ask for help. Us gardeners love sharing our passion of gardening with anyone who wants to learn.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLANTS



Garden designer, Beth Chatto revolutionised gardening, 50 years ago, saved countless gardeners millions and dispelled the myth that only some people have green fingers, with this advice - Plant the right plant, in the right place!

Hayley Honicke

Plant plants with similar water requirements together. Indigenous plants are water wise, low maintenance and attract birds and beneficial insects to your garden. Compost is a must and with all the kitchen throw always and trimmings from garden a compost heap can be started. Try keeping it as natural as possible people.

Jessica du Plessis

I learned in a short period of time that it's easy to go to the nursery and purchase plants because they look pretty, but you cannot simply go home and plant them anywhere. You need to research or read up about the plants you purchase. Find out what their sun or shade requirements are and plant them accordingly.



Jimie Malan's Garden - Malanseuns

<https://www.facebook.com/Malanseuns>

Di Fahn

Try to grow plants that are common in your area. Drive around your suburb and see which plants are flourishing. They tend to be the ones that grow the quickest and are easiest to care for.

Jane Caroline Palmer

Find out what grows well in your area and include plenty of indigenous plants to encourage wildlife and a healthy ecosystem

Debbie Bodley

Plant locally indigenous and as diverse as possible to create lots of little habitats for wildlife. Copy nature.

Toni Suddes

My favourite garden design tip is mass or block planting - using one flower in one colour in a sections/s of a garden. Or, if a small garden - it works brilliantly through the whole garden. It creates a bold design statement, a mass of beautiful colour (even if green or black grasses etc) and I witnessed a real life wild flower garden growing in mass in nature this last week while visiting the Namakwaland. Too beautiful!



Desre Menezies Garden

Luttara Pili Mogi

Before making my garden I had it all planned in my sketch..the plants, the stones, the bedding and decor... Unfortunately, as I worked on it practically, it was not as I wished... The bedding looks bad... The stones doesn't look good.. then one of the gardener here in the group told me "let the stones be natural..." I wonder how I should make it look natural.. then I observed more and more of his arts and the other wonderful gardeners art too... Now I got my garden looking good... I am satisfied.. What I'm trying to say is that.. first try of gardening might not be as successful as we want but as we go on it'll get better and better... I also realized that we need to be careful with the plants we put together... For example the hight, the soil they need , the spacing , and even the watering... So that we could have a best result... I'm really happy being a part of this group.. so many great wisdom

Chantel Van Greuning

It's not about how beautiful, colorful or finely structured your garden is, it's about your love for gardening. It's about the peace it brings within you.



Margaret Heath

For interest all year go to garden centre or nursery every month and buy perenials which are in flower. Next year your garden will be have flowers all year.

Josephine Mnkandla

Always make an effort to know your plants by name. That way you will be able to research on their different needs. Eg sunlight, planting season, feeding needs, etc.

Elza Germishuys

When buying shrubs and seedlings first buy the compost for your new plants.

Elizabeth Eggar

If you see a plant you love, ask if you can have a small cutting. Put it in a glass of water on a windowsill and it will usually root. Plants for free and it's fun too!



Jenny Cairns

Have an idea in mind of the look and feel you want to create. Choosing a theme or colour scheme makes shopping at the nursery easier. Its so tempting to buy one of everything, but then you end up with a fruit salad without impact.

Helen Mitchell

When struggling to find suitable flowers for sandy dry shade, I learned to use leaf colour, texture and shapes to provide year round interest. The result has been surprisingly pleasing.

Ginny Stone

Don't be afraid to move plants if they are not doing well where you put them the first time. Often I will leave a plant in its pot and put it in different places in the garden until I find the place it seems happiest.

Lizl Van Vreden

Remember to plan ahead for the new season in terms of preparing flower beds... And make sure that you do your homework and buy the right plants for the right bedding. Don' t do what I do... Storm into the nursery and buy everything that is pretty! Lost a lot of money and plants to due that.

PLANTING WISDOM



You've arrived home with a car filled with beautiful plants and are ready to plant. Whether you are planting trees, shrubs, perennials or annuals, keeping the plant's roots strong and healthy is the number one consideration when planting, because it is the roots of the plant that anchor the plant in the soil and help it to take up water and nutrients needed by the plant to thrive.

Anne Winterbach

Make sure soil well prepared before you rush out and plant

Janet Lockley Palmary

Spend twice as much on soil preparation as you spend on plants before planting

Terry Moller

Firstly I also prepare the soil when planting with compost and super phosphate for good root development and water deep immediately after planting. Second lesson is a regular feeding program .

Joan Ferrett

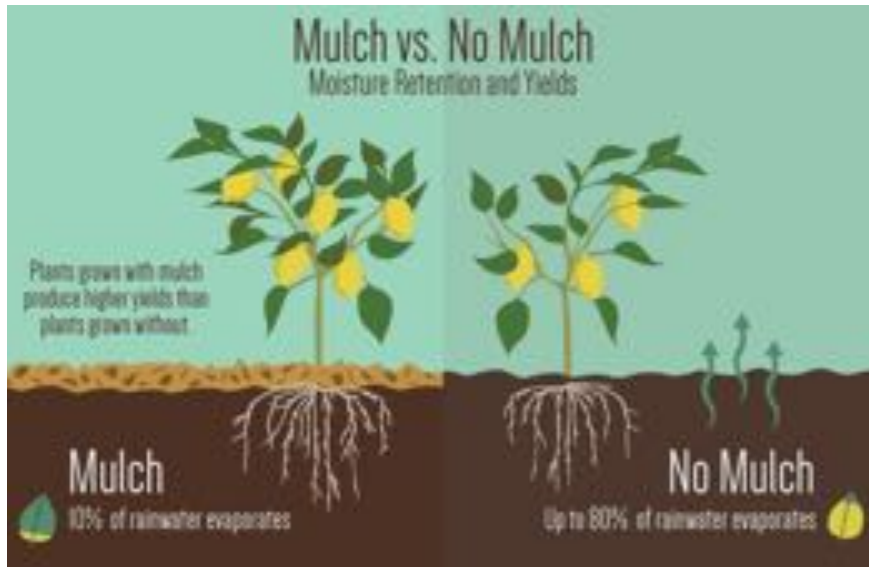
When transplanting a plant to a new area make sure it is facing the same way when you took it out

Shemara GiffAppel Mazzolini

Take note of the proportions of yr plants, make enough space and also where to plant, sun, shade etc



MULCHING



Mulching is the gardening practice of covering bare soil around plants with a substance to protect the soil from heat, wind, cold and frost and there are three ways to mulch. You can use organic mulches - compost, bark chips, straw, fruit pips, nut shells, autumn leaves. Or you can use inorganic mulches - gravel, pebbles and stones. Or you can use, what are called living mulches - low growing, ground cover plants like *Geranium incanum*, *Crassula multicava*, *Dimorphoteca jucunda*. Mulching helps the garden to thrive by retaining moisture in the soil, reduces water evaporation, prevents soil erosion and prevents soil-borne diseases spreading onto plants from rain splash. Mulching also suppresses weeds, just imagine no more weeding. Organic mulches break down over time enriching and improving the soil and encouraging favourable microbial activity and worms all of which improve the soil.

Debbie Bodley

Mulch and don't rake fallen leaves - a reliable small chipper is a great investment. A blanket of decomposing plant matter encourages a healthy soil microbiome, root systems, useful bugs, foraging birds and reduces watering. Bare soil is like a desert, it doesn't support much life. Try not to dig, it disturbs the soil microbiome.

Leanne Coetzee

Mulch when the autumn leaves drop, don't throw the leaves away.

COMPOSTING AND FERTILISING



Like all living things, plants need nutrients in order to grow and are dependent on the nutrients available in the soil around their roots, but we are not all blessed with great soil and so we need to feed our plants by adding the nutrients they need into the soil either through the use of compost or organic fertilisers or synthetic fertilisers. Adding fertilisers helps to boost the growth and condition of plants and healthy plants are less prone to diseases and pests.

Sheila Adam Walker

Consistently amend your soil with compost in between plantings. After three years of doing this in poor sandy soil I've gone from 2 -3 ft tall peppers to 5 - 6 ft tall pepper plants filled with peppers and tomatoes, my gosh. Everything is flourishing

Jane Caroline Palmer

Create a space for a compost heap.

Terry Moller

Second lesson is a regular feeding program . It has has extended the lifespan of my plant and my plants are healthy and resistant to pest and disease attacks



Leanne Coetzee

Make your own compost with a wormery. It's easy and free and the results are amazing!

Roenel Kenyon

Collect rainwater and make your own liquid fertilizer using banana peels. steep banana peels in water in a glass jar for 3-5 days. Use liquid as fertilizer.

Josephine Mnkandla

Crushed eggshells,banana peels,used teabags,excellent for your plants

Elizabeth Eggar

If space permits, start a compost heap. When you peel your veg, wrap loosely in one sheet of newspaper and put it on the heap. Also any weeds or lawn cuttings. Anything organic. If you repot a plant, add the old potting soil to the heap. Add some new compost now and again to start the process going. Gardening can become expensive and that is fertiliser and soil conditioner that you wont need to buy

CARING FOR YOUR PLANTS



Tsokolo Makeka

Talk to your plants and be nurturing. You will develop the skill of discerning when they are in distress and when they need TL

Atti Herawati

Talk to your plant any time; when you plant it, when you water it, when you pick up its flower or fruit.. treat it as a living thing

Deirdre Draudsing

It is a living thing and responds to both praise and blame

Claire Smalley

When plants have flowered in the summer, cut the dead heads off and they will keep coming back

Ginny Stone

Put a teaspoon of dishwashing liquid in a spray bottle full of water for effective, yet safe, pest control. Spray your roses or veggies frequently to stop them from being eaten

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Phillip Skerrit - Enchanting Gardens

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THE EDIBLE GARDEN



Robert Rivera's Garden

Delisa Dawson-Crouse

Start small and stay mobile. Choose a few veggies to try and go with pots or grow bags. Gives chance to see what does well and move around yard till decide on best permanent location

Anine Luyken

When you want to plant carrots, mix 1 full packet of seeds with one cup of maize meal. Sow thin direct into the soil. This helps in less wastage of seeds when you need to thin out the carrots

Maxi Bernstein

Plant / sow Borage next to or in between your strawberries - very good companion plants

Zarina Seedat

Feed with epsom salt in yr strawberry plants the fruit will be sweet

Anine Luyken

Plant according to the moon calendar

Carol Boonzaier

Scatter crushed raw egg shells to keep snails away

Leanne Coetzee

Plant veggies that you actually eat



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PEST AND DISEASES



Know your friend from your foe in the garden - download a free copy of The Plant Doctor on <http://www.diygardendesigner.com/free-giveaway-3/> and be able to identify the pests in your garden and what to do.

Sarah Gilbert

Clean your gardening tools regularly to help prevent the spread of disease to other plants

FINAL WORD

Rebecca Oster

Relax. There are no mistakes, only happy accidents

Tasha Tollman

Gardening is about the journey not the destination, so enjoy, have fun, create a garden that fills you with joy, that makes your heart sing. And if you've enjoyed this e-book and want to learn more, come join us on the online Gardening 101 course.

Gardening 101 shares the techniques and tips used by top horticulturists and gardeners to create beautiful gardens filled with lush, healthy plants. Learn how to improve your soil; when, how and what fertilisers to use; the right way to plant and transplant; what plants will thrive in your garden; how to groom and prune your plants to keep them looking good and how to sow seeds, split and divide your plants and propagate new plants from cuttings. This practical course guides you step by step through the skills that you need before you start buying plants to ensure you don't waste your money or your time on plants that end up dying or becoming diseased. This is a self study course and all videos and content is available immediately upon registration. You can work through the material at your own pace, from the comfort of your home. <http://www.diygardendesigner.com/courses/gardening-101/>

THE AUTHOR



TASHA TOLLMAN

I grew up in a household passionate about gardening, absorbed the art of garden design through a daily process of osmosis, imitation and workshops. I now share my passion for creating beautiful spaces through online Garden Design courses - take a look at my page www.diygardendesigner.com.

For garden design inspiration you can find me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DIYGardenDesigner/>