

Gardening from the ground up

How many times have you planted the perfect shrub or flower in the perfect spot only to find that it didn't favor its new home? Plants thrive and flourish in soil conditions ideally suited for them, but you'll rarely find ideal soil in your garden. Don't get discouraged! You can always improve soil conditions to achieve healthier plant growth and better produce.

But how is a gardener to learn all that needs to be learned about enriching garden soil without spending a fortune on a reference library, or enrolling in the nearest horticultural classes?

Basic tips and information concerning soil improvements, understanding pH, fertilizers (organic versus inorganic), and a plant food application schedule are included in the 28-page, full color booklet entitled "Projects and Tips from Better Homes and Gardens, Lawn & Garden Guide", being offered by four of the industry's leading manufacturers.

The guide explains that the secret to soil improvement lies in organic matter, in the form of peat moss, leaf mold, manure or compost.

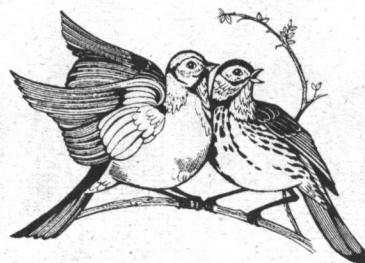
Whenever possible, add organic matter to your soil in the fall. This gives microorganisms plenty of time to decompose it before spring planting. Then, after working in the

organic matter, add any other amendments, such as bone meal or super-phosphate, for good root growth.

Fertilizers also improve soil conditions, and Hoffman, the leading manufacturer in organic plant foods, decodes the numbers and symbols shown on fertilizer labels. The numbers (such as 10-6-4) stand for the percentages of nitrogen,

phosphorus and potassium, in that order. These are the major nutrients essential for plant growth.

Learn from the guide where each is best used in high percentages and about the "WIN" term, which stands for Water Insoluble Nitrogen, along with other gardening information about tools, starting seeds, creating a new lawn and much more.



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What makes some food spikes better than others? Miracle-Gro Plant Food Spikes are based on the original Miracle-Gro formula, with something new added. The added nutrient is Nutralene, a recently-developed, dual-action slow-release nitrogen, which breaks down in the soil as it is dissolved by water and by microbial action.

Use one spike for every two inches of pot diameter; for example, three spikes for a six-inch pot. Each feeding is designed to last two months.

New Plant Food Spikes from Miracle-Gro come with a handy soil aerator that makes an entry hole for the spike, eliminating potential breakage, a problem with other brands. The digging action of using the aerator introduces added oxygen into the soil, which stimulates root growth for healthier plants.

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The little time required to complete this Inventory could prove very worthwhile both for establishing an adequate amount of insurance, and in the event of loss to remember all of your possessions.

Summary	
Living Room	
Dining Room	
Family-Recreation	
Kitchen	
Bathroom(s)	
Verandah or Patio	
Bedroom #1	
Bedroom #2	
Bedroom #3	
Bedroom #4	
Other Room(s)	
Linens and Clothing	
China and Crystal	
Silver, Jewelry, Furs, and Coin Collection	
Basement and Garage	
Miscellaneous	
GRAND TOTAL	\$
Present Insurance	\$
Additional Insurance Needed	\$

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