

## Pathfinder for Home Gardening

A pathfinder is designed to give you the basic tools to conduct research into a topic of interest for you. This pathfinder in particular is concerned with helping you locate resources about home gardening. We hope to include information suitable for beginners and intermediate gardeners but will probably not have information suitable for expert gardeners. What you will find here is information on print resources, such as you would find in a bookstore or library, and internet resources that you should be able to find during an internet search. This is designed to point you in the right direction, and enable you to do the research yourself, so we've included a few resources that may or may not be useful to you. We've tried to gather reliable resources, but you should use your own discretion in evaluating them. Some information in this pathfinder will be specific to South-Central Wisconsin gardeners.

### Print Resources

Can be found either in an online bookstore, a physical bookstore, or your local library

- Beckett, K., Bradley, S., Kingsbury, N., & Newbury, T., 1999. Gardening basics: How to design, plant, & maintain your garden. New York: Sterling.
- Bubel, Nancy, 1978. The seed-starter's handbook. Rodale Press.
- The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control: A complete problem-solving guide to keeping your garden and yard healthy without chemicals. 1996. Eds.: Ellis, B.W., & Bradley, F. M. Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press.
- Minnich, J. 1995. Wisconsin Garden Guide: the complete guide to vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruits & nuts, lawn & landscaping, indoor gardening. 3rd ed. Madison, WI: Prairie Oak Press.
- Phillips, R. & Rix, M. 1993. The Random House Book of Vegetables : over 650 vegetables in superb colour. New York: Random House.

How to find more books: your best bet is to go to your local library and search their catalog for subject headings such as "gardens" or "gardening," which will bring up a list of subject headings for you to browse through (many libraries now have online catalogs you can access from your home computer, as well). Starting with basic headings such as these will allow you to see similar headings that you may not have thought of; for example, a subject heading of "gardening" may also bring up "Gardening -- Amateurs' manuals" and "See Also Vegetable Gardening." If subject heading searches bring up too many results, you can do a keyword search. You can also perform an advanced search if you aren't successful.

How do you know when you have a good source? To determine if a book is reliable, look at the credentials of the author(s) or the editor(s), or the publisher. Usually extensive education in the subject area, numerous previous works, and experience are good indicators, as is more than one edition of a work. Finally, use common sense. Look through the book; if it has the information you believe you need, and is organized in a manner you think helpful, then it may be the right source for you.

### Internet Resources

Guide to websites that may have useful information. Quotations in the description are from the websites themselves.

- [Wisconsin Public Television: The Wisconsin Gardener website](http://www.wpt.org/garden). (<http://www.wpt.org/garden>) "The Wisconsin Gardener offers a hands-in-the-dirt approach to gardening in Wisconsin."
- [Organic Gardening Basics](http://www.organicgardening.com/channel/1,7502,s1-2,00.html): (<http://www.organicgardening.com/channel/1,7502,s1-2,00.html>) "We've gathered the basics of organic gardening for you here. You'll be able to find where to get your soil tested, learn how to manage pests without using chemicals, and read growing guides for vegetables"

and flowers."

- **Garden Watchdog:** (<http://davesgarden.com/gwd/>) "we're here to protect and serve consumers by providing information on gardening companies." A site that rates popular online and catalog seed companies. You can perform a search or look up by letter a seed company and view ratings and reviews. You can also find links to company homepages here.
- **GardenWeb:** (<http://www.gardenweb.com/>) "GardenWeb hosts forums, garden exchanges, articles, contests, a plant database, the Web's largest garden-related glossary and online catalogs. We are also home to the Calendar of Garden Events, The Rosarian, Wild-Flowers and sister sites in Europe and Australia...It is our aim to provide the most comprehensive gardening site on the Web, combining the creative use of interactivity with imaginative content and a user-friendly interface. "
- **The American Horticultural Society:** (<http://www.ahs.org/>) "The American Horticultural Society (AHS) is one of the oldest national gardening organizations in the country. Since 1922, we have provided America's gardeners with the highest quality gardening and horticultural education possible. We accomplish this with the help of an impressive network of experts -- from the members of our Board of Directors, specialized Advisory Committees, National Great American Gardener Award Winners and corporate sponsors."

How to go about finding decent resources online? Your local public library, or even a college or university library, will often have a website that will list online resources. You can usually trust a public library or academic library to provide reliable websites. For example, the **Madison Public Library** (<http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/>) has a section called "Information and Research Resources / Internet Sites by Subject" where gardening is listed under "Home & Leisure." You can also do web searches at sites like **Google** (<http://www.google.com/>) or directory searches at sites like **Yahoo** (<http://www.yahoo.com/>). Keep in mind that a general web search usually yields fewer results and more frustration! Your public library website should have a section with tips for web searching, as will the website where you are conducting the search.

## Multimedia

Some videos, DVDs, or computer programs:

- Burpee 3D garden designer (plan the garden of your dreams) [electronic resource], 1999. Millennium ed. ; 3.0 ; Windows 95/98. Macmillan Digital Publishing. CD-ROM.
- LandDesigner [electronic resource], 2000. [CD-ROM] Version 6.0, Windows 2000/98/95/NT CD-ROM, IBM PC or compatible. Sierra On-Line, Inc. CD-ROM
- Garden encyclopedia find the perfect plants for your garden [electronic resource], 1996. [CD-ROM] ; Windows Version 2.0, IBM PC or compatible. Books That Work (Firm). CD-ROM
- Back to basics [videorecording], 1998. Wisconsin Public Television ; producer, Shelley F. Ryan. VHS.
- Gardening Naturally: Getting Started [videorecording], 1994. The Learning Channel / Discovery Channel ; Executive producer, Jan Craige Singer ; director, David Fuller ; writers, Eliot Coleman, Barbara Damrosch and David Fuller.
- Gardening Naturally: Preparing for Spring [videorecording], 1994. The Learning Channel / Discovery Channel ; Executive producer, Jan Craige Singer ; director, David Fuller ; writers, Eliot Coleman, Barbara Damrosch and David Fuller.

Again, use your own discretion to determine if a resource is going to work for you. Software can be a tricky issue, which is why we recommend borrowing from the library instead of purchasing a CD-ROM title. You can also check a software title's user ratings online, such as [here](#), at **Amazon.com** (<http://www.amazon.com/>).

## Looking for More?

- **Stenrud Greenhouse Related Links:** (<http://geocities.com/stenrudgreenhouse/links.html>) A list of links to seed companies that we order from, or have ordered from in the past.
- **Dane County Farmer's Market:** (<http://www.madfarmmkt.org/>) "The Dane County Farmers' Market on the Square is a Saturday and Wednesday tradition in Madison, Wisconsin. You'll find the season's best bounty of vegetables, flowers, and specialty products from approximately 300 vendors. All of the agriculturally-related items are produced in Wisconsin. The DCFM is reported to be the largest producer-only farmers's market in the country!"