

# **5 Common Gardening Myths You Should Forget About**



The gardening world is rife with anecdotal information. Since I started gardening over 10 years ago, I've run into my fair share of common gardening myths. People love to make big

claims about their gardening techniques. It turns out, though, that while the “secret sauce” might have some truth to it, it’s usually a lot more complicated. Correlation doesn’t equate to causation, after all. Just because your [fertilizer](#) application led to better growth last year doesn’t mean you’ll achieve the same results the next. Why? Adding fertilizer willy nilly is a bad idea. It can create nutrient imbalances and produce harmful runoff. Which other common gardening myths are hogwash? Let’s take a look.

## Coffee Grounds are Great for Your Garden

Don’t listen to people who try to sell you on this common gardening myth. Coffee grounds are best kept for your compost pile. Spent grounds can actually do more harm than good when added to your garden. Why? Because they often contain high amounts of caffeine, they can actually [suppress plant growth](#).

## Cedar Wood Chips Are Bad For Your Plants

I avoided cedar wood chips for the longest time because I had read this gardening myth online, and it stuck in my head. Years later, I decided to try it out for myself. It turns out the wood chips had no ill effect on my plants. In fact, adding mulch actually *helped* my plants better conserve water, which improved their growth significantly. According to [OSU Extension Service](#), the poor plant health that people attribute to cedar chips may really be related to other problems entirely.

## Epsom Salts Can Improve Plant Growth

Ugh. This is a widespread gardening myth, and it drives me up the wall. Don’t add nutrients to your soil without [testing](#) it! That’s it. That’s the takeaway. Epsom salts are high in magnesium, so if your soil already contains plenty of magnesium, there’s absolutely NO point in tossing Epsom salts into your garden.

## **Fertilize On a Yearly Basis**

Again, fertilizing without understanding the composition of your soil is a big mistake. This is a common gardening myth that often crops up as a piece of gardening wisdom in gardening guides, articles, and more. Fertilizing depends on the plant in question and the soil in which it's growing. Don't apply fertilizer unless you understand WHY you're doing it.

## **Suffocate Weeds With Mulch**

Technically, this is both a gardening myth and a gardening truth. Lots of mulch will suffocate weeds, but too much can also cut off oxygen to your plants' roots. Never add more than 3 inches of mulch. You're better off weeding before adding mulch than trying to kill weeds with an ultra-thick layer of the stuff.

## **Eggshells Are a Great Source of Calcium**

This extremely common gardening myth has some truth to it. Eggs *do* contain calcium! However, barely any will make its way into your garden by way of the shells. Eggshells take an incredibly long time to break down—even when added to a compost pile—so they're pretty useless in the garden. Even so, people still swear by them. Another eggshell myth is that they help deter soft-bodied pests like slugs. Not true. Use diatomaceous earth instead.

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# Gardening Goals for the New Year



# Gardening Goals for the New Year

Oh, how time flies! It's already 2021 and I can't even remember what I did gardening-wise in 2020. It's all a blur. So let's talk gardening goals for this year. Do you have any gardening plans for this year? Any gardening goals you'd love to achieve?

Whether you're thinking of starting a new garden or you're contemplating expanding your growing-related horizons, it can be tough to narrow down goals. Goal setting works the same way for gardening as it does for anything else. So here are some tips to help you formulate your 2021 gardening goals.

## How to Come Up With Gardening Goals

Goal setting? For gardening? Heck yes! Gardening is a hobby that requires a lot of planning, so it's actually fairly easy to come up with gardening-related goals. As with any kind of goal setting, you want your goals to be:

- **Achievable.** Dreams are great, but goals need to be [concrete](#). If they're so wild that you'd need a miracle to achieve them, you'll end the gardening season more frustrated than anything else. What are some examples of achievable gardening goals?
  - Grow a new tomato variety.
  - Build a new garden bed.
  - Clean the shed.
- **Measurable.** Measurable goals are easy to track. If your goals are too vague, you'll struggle to decide whether you've actually met them or not. "I want to get better at growing carrots" sounds great but what does it actually mean? How will you be able to tell if you've gotten better? How can you turn that into a measurable goal? Instead, turn it into "I want to grow at least one edible carrot this year." You can obviously make it, sixteen, twenty, whatever fits your skill level and abilities.
- **A mixed bag.** Include a variety of goals from easy ones

to some that are more challenging. Growing a new plant variety is an easy one. You likely won't face any roadblocks with that kind of goal. Including more ambitious gardening goals will keep you interested and engaged in the gardening process.

## Why Have Goals?

Why bother with gardening goals at all? We're still dealing with a pandemic, so don't feel pressured to come up with a long list of tough goals to achieve. Not everyone thrives on goal setting. Some people prefer to go with the flow. Personally, I find goal setting is helpful when I'm feeling a lack of motivation. Listing your personal gardening goals can also help when you're feeling overwhelmed. This year, I feel anxious about the gardening season. I feel so stressed in my regular life, that I'm nervous about whether I'll succeed with gardening. Forming achievable goals helps me focus my attention and worry less about being perfect all around. If I can meet a few goals, I know I'll feel content about my gardening season.

## Goal Ideas

Choose goals that get you excited about the upcoming gardening season. Ready to jump in right now? Make yourself some houseplant-related goals. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Revive a dying [houseplant](#).
- Grow a new type of vegetable.
- Spend zero dollars on gardening supplies.
- Save X amount of seeds.
- Harvest X lbs or grams of produce per week
- Keep a gardening journal and write in it weekly
- Support a local seed supplier
- Learn a new [gardening technique](#)
- Make a gardening friend

- Swap seeds with someone by mail

The possibilities are endless!

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# **How to Use Baking Soda for Weed Control**





I've dealt with some nasty weeds in my day. I've also tried a lot of methods to get rid of said [weeds](#). A lot of those so-called "tried-and-true" methods are actually bogus. Like so

many gardening pieces of wisdom, a lot of weed control tricks aren't really useful. What about baking soda for weed control? Does it work?

## **Baking soda's many uses**

I *always* have a box of baking soda in my cupboard—usually two, in fact. Baking soda has many uses. It's a frequent baking ingredient. It's great for sopping up urine stains (something I have to deal with sometimes as a dog owner) and it deodorizes almost like magic. I also always have a box in the fridge to deal with stubborn smells that permeate from containers of leftovers.

But does it work for killing weeds? Can you use baking soda for weed control?

## **Baking soda in the garden**

I have a love-hate relationship with weeds. I genuinely believe that some weeds are lovely. Dandelions, for instance, are a treat and I love how they attract dozens of bees to my garden. Invasive vines, on the other hand? Kill them with fire! Or maybe baking soda?

Here's the deal. Baking soda is not a magic weed killer. Don't believe the hype. It contains sodium, which will surely kill weeds if you pile on the stuff. But, salt is also going to harm other green living things around your garden. Salt can also leech into your soil and can cause harmful runoff.

**TLDR:** It works but it can also cause problems.

It seems like a harmless substance, but I don't recommend it for use in the garden. There are plenty of better ways to deal with weeds.

# Baking soda alternatives

Here are a few alternatives to using baking soda for weed control.

- **Landscape fabric.** Prepare beds with landscape fabric to prevent weeds from popping up in the first place.
- **Plastic mulch.** Plastic mulch is another easy-to-use alternative that can easily suffocate weeds.
- **Organic mulch.** Good ole' organic mulches like wood chips and straw can help prevent weed growth. If you have a bed infested with weeds, though, don't use [mulch](#) until you've pulled out most of the invading plants.
- **Your hands.** If you're dealing with a minor weed infestation, just use your hands or a trowel to dig the weeds up by the roots. Remember to dig up the *whole* plant or else it'll pop up again.
- **Cardboard.** Lay down cardboard before planting to prevent weeds from growing back.
- **Get some chickens.** Chickens won't selectively pick out weeds for you but they will eat the remnants that you've pulled up. That way, you won't have to find a way to dispose of them.

**Quick tip:** Never toss weeds into your household compost. You can contaminate your garden this way!

While I have you here: if you *really* hate those dandelions. I suggest not letting them go to waste. Pick them and use them to make tea.

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# How I Feel About the Hunting of Garden Pests



I've never had to deal with deer fussing about in my garden, but I have had plenty of squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, gophers, and cats use my raised beds as their very own buffet, walking path, and toilet. I'm speaking from my own limited experience here. But I've never felt comfortable with the idea of hunting garden [pests](#).

I used to live in a busy suburban neighborhood where the squirrels reigned supreme. Now, I live in a small community that borders rural land. There are more trees here and plenty of wildlife. Every year, I have to grapple with pests (insects and mammals, alike) enjoying my fresh produce as their own.

It's infuriating. All that effort gone when a squirrel decides to take a small chomp out of every bean [seedling](#). All that effort gone when birds get to seeds before they can even

sprout. All that effort gone when a rabbit chows down on my lettuce that I've managed to protect from early bolting. All that effort when a cat decides my garden beds are its personal litter box. All that effort when something – and I can't be sure what – decides to uproot whatever it wants in the middle of the night seemingly just for fun.

You'd think I'd be on board with hunting to get rid of garden pests, but I'm not. I recognize that hungry critters can really ruin the gardening season if they're relentless enough, but I have the same attitude towards animal pests as I do insect critters and weeds.

## **Taking up space**

We are in their space. Humans have taken up residence where once there was nothing but nature abound. It is not my right to delete these creatures to fit my idea of the perfect garden. Instead, I try my very best to work around the nuisance.

I have a different approach to an indoor invasion, granted, but that's mainly because indoor pests pose a more significant threat to household members' health and safety.

Outside, I'm not the boss. I try to work with Mother Nature, not against her. For one, I don't feel morally comfortable killing animals to make my life easier in the context of gardening. It's my hobby. While I try to grow plenty of food to eat and save money, I won't perish if a crop gets devoured by hungry creatures. I also think there are plenty of ways to co-exist peacefully with these so-called invaders. Hunting garden pests just isn't in the cards for me.

Pest covers have really helped me stay sane this year by keeping squirrels, birds, and cabbage moths away from my delicate brassica seedlings. They've been working so well I'm considering adding them to two more beds. Barriers should be



the first resort when dealing with nasty pests. I also grow extra lettuce to keep rabbits happy and out of my main beds. Most of my beds are high enough to keep small critters out, too.

Cats seem to trot whoever they please no matter what I do, but the pest covers have done wonders to keep their paws out of my beds. I even still plant catnip to invite them to visit because I enjoy the company of sweet, docile neighborhood kitties.

## Breathe and reflect

I am an impatient gardener, and even I can find a moment to take a deep breath and ask myself if getting worked up is worth it. Would it be easy to murder all the squirrels running around my plots? Absolutely! It wouldn't be psychologically simple, but it would really eliminate a big problem for me. Still, I don't think it's my right to say what belongs where.

I decided to enter the world of gardening, and I made a deal with myself that I would work with the forces of nature and not against them. Who am I to know what the consequences of my actions might be? Haven't we, as humans already made poor decisions in this regard? Pesticide use for pest control has decimated bee populations and is having important ramifications.

Yes, it's harder to take the long road. But a little effort is what it takes to grow a plant from seed in the first place. Surely, as gardeners, we have it in us to accept and handle a few extra roadblocks on our way to success.

If this kind of gardening philosophy appeals to you, I highly recommend reading Michael Pollan's book [\*Second Nature: A Gardener's Education\*](#). It's a book that changed the way I think about how I view so-called garden invaders.

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# **5 Factors That Affect Plant Growth**



Many factors affect plant growth. Plants have a few basic needs. Having these needs unmet will cause them to perish. There are also factors outside of a gardener's control that

can impact how well a plant grows. While some variables are out of your control, there are things that you *can* influence.

## **What affects plant growth?**

Plants need several things to stay happy. If you have the ability to control these variables, doing so can help your plants thrive.

### **Sunlight**

Sunlight is the lifeblood of a plant. Without it, plants die. Sunlight enables photosynthesis, which is the process that allows plants to process nutrients. Without sunlight, they can't properly take up nutrients. Some plants need more sunlight than others and providing your plants with the right amount of sunlight is key. Giving plants like lettuce too much sun can cause them to wilt, bolt prematurely, and wither. Not giving enough sun to plants, like eggplant, can stunt their growth and diminish overall yields.

### **Water**

Honestly, this is probably the most confusing task for gardeners to get right. Even the most experienced gardeners sometimes over or under water their plants. It's one of the important factors that affect plant growth. When you're gardening outside, Mother Nature does some of the work for you. Indoors, it's all you, baby. Either way, watering is a bit of an art. Without water, plants will eventually die—even the most drought tolerant. Outside, mulch is a helpful way to retain moisture. Irrigation systems can also help you water deeply and consistently—and waste less. Inside, I highly recommend getting an app that reminds you to water on a schedule or creating a makeshift calendar of your own. Watering plants that have different moisture needs on the same schedule is a recipe for disaster.

### **Air**

Plants are a lot like people. They don't like being squeezed together like sardines. Pack them too close, and you can encounter problems like stunted growth, pests, and disease. Space plants accordingly to prevent overcrowding. Keeping them spaced apart helps improve air circulation, which will reduce instances of disease. It'll also give your plants plenty of room to grow. If you're a patient person, you can try an experiment. Plant squash close together instead of following seed packet spacing guidelines and plant them in another area where they have plenty of room to breathe. You'll see a noticeable difference in how they grow.

## **Temperature**

Out of all the factors that affect plant growth, this one can be tricky to control—especially outdoors. The weather can be unpredictable. Sometimes, even the most diligent gardeners end up with dead or sickly plants on their hands because an unexpected frost occurs. You can use crop protection and other tricks to play around with [temperature](#), but when it gets really cold, there's nothing you can do to stop the freeze. When [starting seeds](#), getting the temperature right is key. Tomato and pepper seeds, for instance, won't even germinate if the soil is too cold.

## **Nutrients**

Plants need food to survive. Often, good quality soil that's amended yearly contains plenty of [nutrients](#) to get you through a vegetable gardening season. However, that's not always the case. Poor nutrient uptake can happen for several reasons, including inadequate pH and environmental conditions. Without the right nutrients, plants can become diseased and stunted and provide a diminished or non-existent yield.

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# **Container Gardening: Fabric Pots vs. Plastic Pots**



CONTAINER GARDENING:

## *Fabric Pots vs. Plastic Pots*

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I love to plant crops in containers, especially finicky plants like eggplant and peppers. I use a variety of containers in my

garden, including fabric pots. If it gets too cold, it's simple enough to haul them inside. Containers are also great for those living in rental properties or those with limited space. It's easy to shuffle them around a deck or balcony and you can manage to plant quite a bit in multiple containers. I've collected many [plastic pots](#) from the garden center over the years. I reuse them to plant herbs, tomatoes, and whatever doesn't fit in the rest of my garden. But plastic pots have their pros and cons, and they aren't the only option for your gardening needs.

## The Trouble With Plastic

Black plastic pots are great for heat-loving plants because the dark material is a heat magnet. What's not so great about plastic? Unless you've purchased self-watering containers, plastic pots require careful monitoring so that plants are evenly watered. Without proper drainage, plants may become root-bound or drown if [over-watered](#) (always make sure there are drainage holes underneath). Plastic doesn't breathe very well, either. Imagine wrapping yourself in a sheet of plastic instead of breathable clothing. You'd end up a sweaty, suffocated mess.

That doesn't mean plastic pots aren't useful. They're typically very inexpensive, easy to find, and they're available in all shapes and sizes. But there's already SO much plastic in the world. If there's a worthy alternative, why not try it? By choosing a different type of plant pot, you can reduce your ecological footprint and stop creating unnecessary plastic waste.

## An Alternative: Fabric Pots

You could use any pot for planting, but fabric pots offer a few distinct advantages:

- **They're relatively cheap.** Often sold in packs, fabric containers are a suitable option for frugal gardeners.
- **They last a long time.** Cracked plastic and broken ceramic pots begone! Fabric pots are made of sturdy materials that won't rip, even when filled with wet soil. Re-use them year after year.
- **They're breathable.** The fabric allows for optimal airflow.
- **No water-logging.** You won't have to contend with rotted roots using fabric pots, the material allows for proper drainage.
- **Easy to handle.** Handles make it easy to drag fabric pots around the garden.
- **Foldable sides.** Fabric pots are ideal for growing [potatoes](#) since the edges can be rolled down.

If you're looking for a good beginner's guide to growing in pots, I highly recommend the [Vegetable Gardener's Container Garden](#). It's a book that I still refer back to!

I also recommend checking out this handy YouTube video on how to grow potatoes in containers:

*What's your favorite vegetable to grow in fabric pots? Leave us a comment to let us know!*

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## Do Pre-Packaged Seeds Grow Faster Than Fresh Seeds?





*NO PRE-PACKAGED SEEDS*

*Grow Faster Than  
Fresh Seeds?*

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It's that time of year when the seed catalogs start arriving in the mailbox. Getting new packets of seeds from a seed supplier is a real treat. Knowing that those carefully



harvested seeds will eventually grow into food or flowers is so exciting.

It's just as satisfying to sort through personally harvested [seeds](#) from your own garden. Collecting seeds right from your garden is not only environmentally responsible but can also save you money in the long run. Shiny new seed packets can get expensive, after all.

## **Pre-Packaged Seeds vs. Fresh Seeds: What's the Difference?**

Confused about what I mean between [fresh and pre-packaged seeds](#)?

Here's why they're different. When I refer to pre-packaged seeds, these are seeds that you buy from seed suppliers. They arrive in packets, and you can buy them in various quantities.

When I talk about fresh seeds, I'm talking about seeds harvested from your garden. When your cilantro plant bolts and flowers, it eventually produces seeds at the end of the season. To harvest them, you dry the pods and remove the seeds.

Hold on, though, fresh is really just a way to distinguish between the two. Once you store your garden-harvested seeds, they aren't technically fresh anymore.

Both pre-packaged and "fresh" seeds can vary in freshness. When buying seeds, always check the packaging date to make sure you haven't received a super old packet.

Really, the only difference between the two is the source.

## **Pre-Packaged Seeds vs. Fresh Seeds: Which**

## Grows Faster?

There's nothing more annoying than receiving a packet of seeds and finding out that most are duds. Unfortunately, it happens. It's also proof that buying pre-packaged seeds doesn't guarantee freshness or quality.

The plant growth rate has nothing to do with whether seeds come from your garden or a seed supplier. The same goes for germination. The rate of growth and germination has more to do with how you store seeds.

Proper storage is *everything*. It's key to keeping your seeds viable for longer. Poor storage can turn quality seeds into duds very quickly. To make sure your seeds (whether from your garden or elsewhere) stay fresh:

- Store in an airtight container.
- Don't expose them to moisture.

## Tips for Starting Seeds

When the time comes to start seeds, there are also a few things you can do to speed up germination.

- **Match seed type and temperature.** Some seeds [germinate](#) best when exposed to warm temperatures, while others like it cooler. Keeping things at the right temperature can speed up the germination process.
- **Keep soil moist.** Moisture is key for germination, but make sure not to drown those little seeds.
- **Manage airflow.** If you're starting seeds in a confined space, too much humidity can be a problem. It can promote mold growth and disease. If plants are too close together, it can also prevent adequate airflow.

Want some tips on how to save your own seeds? Here is a [handy guide](#) from Seed Savers Exchange.

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# Harvesting Rainwater for the Frugal Gardener



*HARVESTING RAINWATER*  
*for the Frugal  
Gardener*

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Gardening requires quite a bit of water. For many gardeners

that means an increase in their water bill during the [hot summer](#) months. Statistics show that lawn and garden watering make up at least [40%](#) of our total household water use. Frugal gardeners, however, can take advantage of rainwater by bringing back an age-old, low-tech system of collecting water from roofs and gutter systems into rain barrels, or cisterns as they have been called. By harvesting rainwater, you can keep your little corner of the world green, decrease stormwater runoff, and cut costs all at the same time.

## Harvesting rainwater

One inch of rain on a 1,000 square foot roof will produce 600 gallons of water. Capture just some of that chemical-free rain in a container of any kind and you'll be able to keep your veggie garden thriving and your flowers blooming all season, with no added expense. Your plants will thrive with the natural rainwater compared to water from municipal systems and the chemicals they typically add. Rainwater is a free source of soft water and also excellent for your houseplants.

Most rain barrels now come with the fittings for hooking up a hose, so getting harvesting rainwater is as simple as locating a barrel under a gutter and screwing in your hose. If you have a very small garden plot, or only use small containers, you can opt for a simpler system. Locate a barrel under a downspout and just dip your watering can in when you are planning to water your plants and containers. Each time it rains, you can store water up for the dry days or days you can't water due to summer rationing schedules.

Due to the amount of water coming off a roof, it is important to have a plan for overflow. It's important to have a valve to switch tanks. You can also go low tech and manually move the downspout away from the already full barrel to keep from having a mini Niagara Falls next to your buildings' foundation.



As with anything that holds water, be sure your system has a child-proof, secure lid to prevent accidents. You might also want to screen the opening to your container, not only keeping debris out of the water but discouraging mosquitoes from breeding.

## Where to get a water barrel?

Here's a list of a few of the companies that carry water barrels and supplies to help you set up a water storage system. Remember, your system for harvesting rainwater can be as simple or as complex as you have time and money for. Just the savings from setting up one downspout and a barrel will make a difference. What frugal gardener doesn't want to tap into a free resource?

- [Clean Air Gardening](#)
- [NE Design](#)
- [Midwest Internet Sales](#)
- [Spruce Creek Rain Saver](#)
- [Garden Water Saver](#)

## Check local regulations

Before purchasing anything, be sure to check with the water department where you live to see if they are sponsoring a [Rain Water Harvesting project](#). Many cities encourage the installation of rain barrels as a method of conservation. They may offer the barrels at a reduced price or give rebates if you purchase your barrel elsewhere. Some towns even offer workshops and supplies to build your own systems.

Rain barrels are one of the simplest, cheapest ways to conserve [water](#), allowing you to treat rainwater as a resource and not a waste product. Harvesting rainwater on your property can help make your garden a more environmentally friendly space.



Installing a Rain Barrel

Rain Water Harvesting

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## **4    Cost-Effective       Organic Garden Fertilizers**



Regardless of what you're growing, your plants need nutrients. Without fertilizer, your plants will fail to thrive and grow big and strong. In the case of edibles, a lack of nutrients

can limit your crop and lead to poor production. Unfortunately, many fertilizers on the market are expensive. Thankfully there are cost-effective organic fertilizers you can use to boost your garden's productivity.

## A word of caution

Before I jump into a list of cost-effective organic fertilizer suggestions, I want to talk a bit about fertilizing in general. Piling on fertilizer will NOT automatically make your garden more lush and productive. Fertilizing without testing your soil first can lead to a host of problems down the road. With fertilizer, more is not always better.

Always [test your soil](#) first to find out whether your garden is lacking nutrients. Read up about plant nutrient needs to ensure you're applying the right fertilizer.

While organic fertilizer is a lot less harmful to the environment than synthetic fertilizer, too much of it can still pose problems, so be cautious! If you think your plants are hungry for nutrients, double check first. They may be stressed or ailing for a different reason.

Organic fertilizers are an excellent alternative to synthetic ones because they help build soil quality over time and improve the soil's ability to retain nutrients and water. They're a lot less concentrated, which helps prevent overfertilization—though, it's still possible with certain commercial options.

## Cost-Effective Organic Fertilizers

Fertilizers can be expensive. Organic options are even more so! So what are the options available for a frugal gardener? Here are a few cost-effective organic fertilizers to choose from:

**Worm castings.** Set up a worm farm or attract worms using a

[bucket system](#) and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Castings is a nice way of saying poop, but this excrement is mighty powerful! Worm poop is high in nitrogen and full of beneficial microbes and bacteria.

**Coco coir.** Coconut husks are an inexpensive, earth-friendly alternative to peat moss. While coir doesn't contain nutrients, it helps condition the soil and improves water and nutrient retention. It's also a great mulch option.

**Homemade compost.** It's easy to make your own compost at home! You'll need a balanced mix of kitchen scraps and other materials like dead leaves and grass clippings to get some rotting action going. Over time, the materials break down into a powerhouse of nutrients for your garden.

**Seaweed.** Sea kelp fertilizer is pricey, but if you live near a shoreline, you can collect your own smelly seaweed, let it rot for a bit, and make a seaweed fertilizer tea. It's not ideal for people who are sensitive to pungent smells, but it's a great totally free source of nutrients!

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## 7 Garden Gnomes Perfect for Gifting This Holiday Season





I've always loved garden gnomes – even after watching the horrifying Goosebumps episode titled ‘Revenge of the Lawn Gnomes’ as a kid. The Travelocity gnome is the cutest company mascot ever. And if you've never watched Gnomeo and Juliet, I highly recommend you do so immediately.

Garden gnomes are the ideal garden decoration, in my opinion. They add a touch of whimsy and color without bulk, but they're sturdy and don't require any special tools to install. Just pop one in the dirt next to your [plants](#) and enjoy it from afar.

In addition to being attractive garden installations, garden gnomes also make a great gift for your gardening friends. They're also usually inexpensive and available in a variety of styles. There's something for everyone – whether you're looking for a tiny stocking stuffer for a secret Santa exchange or a sentimental gift for a loved one. Here are a few gnome picks to help you shop this holiday season:

## [THE Garden Gnome](#)



The quintessential gnome is available in two sizes – 6 or 10-inches – and features a tough weather-resistant construction.

## [Gnometastic Double Bird Garden Gnome](#)



Consider this scandalous garden gnome for your gardening friend who has a cheeky sense of humor.

## [Gnome Solar Garden Light](#)





Choose this dual-purpose gnome for a gardener looking to add more lighting to their garden area.

## [BigMouth Inc. The Great Garden Gnome Massacre](#)



Quite possibly my favorite gnome on the planet! A hilarious and unique garden fixture for your horror-movie loving friend.

## Big Mouth, Inc. Game of Thrones Garden Gnome



Have you run out of ideas for the Game of Thrones lover on your list? Worry not! This regal gnome statue is the perfect choice for the GOT fan who's still not ready to let go.

## Rain Gauge Gnome



Gift this useful rain gauge gardener friends who seem to always have trouble watering their garden the appropriate amount.

## [Zombie Gnome by Design Toscano](#)



Still looking for the perfect Halloween decor for your garden? Why not add this pair of skeletal gnomes to the mix? The creepy statue is made of sturdy crushed stone, so it's heavy and won't topple over and is coated with UV-resistant paint.

## [Solar Light Zen Meditating Garden Gnome](#)



Add this dual-purpose gnome to your garden to evoke a sense of calm. The waterproof decoration features solar-powered lights that automatically go on and off thanks to a built-in light sensor.

## Don't Forget to Bring Your Gnome in for the Winter

If you're buying a new gnome for your garden, don't forget to store it properly for the [winter](#). Even the most durable statue is vulnerable to damage if left in the garden as [snow](#) begins to fall. Carefully store your gnomes in a safe location where they're unlikely to fall or get bumped. If concerned about damage in storage, wrap your precious gnomes in bubble wrap or newspaper.