

I'm Not Really a Garden Expert, I Just Play One on the Radio
Presented by Mike Nowak of WGN Radio's "Let's Talk Gardening"
Selected Websites and Books

Whether you're an MPKS member or you just happen to stumble upon this in your Internet travels, please be advised that this is by no means a comprehensive list of gardening websites. It is simply a few sites that I have found useful, and they apply mainly to Chicago-area gardeners, though a number of them have universal appeal. This list also tends to emphasize use of native plants in the landscape, alternative methods of weed and pest control, and, through certain extension sites, ways that you can help yourself learn more about the inexact science of gardening.

The same holds true for the books. There are dozens of great gardening books that I didn't have space to list. These are a few that have caught my attention in recent years.

Enjoy.

List of Soil Testing Labs

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/soiltest/>

You can also get your soil tested by Cook County Farm Bureau

http://www.cookcfb.com/soil_testing.htm

University of Illinois Extension Home, Yard & Garden Pest Newsletter

<http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/cespubs/hyg/>

University of Illinois Hort Corner

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/hort/index.html>

Morton Arboretum Plant Health Care Monitoring Report (look for link on home page)

<http://www.mortonarb.org>

Compost/Composting/Soil Food Web

The Resource Center: <http://www.resourcecenterchicago.org>

Ken Dunn: 773/758-1351

<http://www.soilfoodweb.com>

<http://www.mastercomposter.com/>

<http://www.cityfarmer.org/wormcomp61.html>

<http://www.compost.org>

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/sustainable/slidesets/kidscompost/kid1.html> (good for kids)

<http://www.intlctc.org/> (International Compost Tea Council)

<http://www.alaskahumus.com/JeffsLectureNotes.htm> (Jeff Lowenfel's Soil Info)

Invasive Plants

<http://www.invasive.org> (Invasive and Exotic Species of North America)

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/all.htm> (Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas)

Turf Grass and Weeds

<http://www.weedalert.com/> (everything about weeds)

http://www.weedalert.com/university_links.htm (University Turfgrass links)

Recycling

<http://www.chicagorecycling.org> (Chicago Recycling Coalition)

<http://wgnradio.com/shows/gardening/Vandercook.htm> (electronics recycling, courtesy of CRC)

Native Plants and Restoration Services

<http://www.chicagowilderness.org> (Chicago Wilderness)

<http://www.chicagowildernessmag.org> (Chicago Wilderness Magazine)

<http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/> (EPA's Green Landscaping With Native Plants)

<http://www.for-wild.org/> (Wild Ones)

<http://www.artandlindaswildflowers.com/> (Art and Linda's Wildflowers)

<http://www.prairieridge-nursery.com/> (Prairie Ridge Nursery)

<http://www.pizzo.info/> (Pizzo & Associates)

Pesticide Information

<http://www.spcpweb.org> (Safer Pest Control Project)

<http://www.pesticidefreelawns.org> (National Coalition for Pesticide Free Lawns)

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/main.html> (Beyond Pesticides)

<http://entm29.entm.purdue.edu/acorn/> (Alternative Control Outreach Research Network - Purdue)

<http://www.pesticidesafety.uius.edu/resources/resources.html> (Illinois Pesticide Safety Education)

<http://www.panna.org> (Pesticide Action Network North America)

<http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Index.html> (PAN Pesticides Data Base)

<http://www.pesticide.org/inertspage.html> (Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides)

<http://npic.orst.edu> (National Pesticide Information Center)

<http://ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet> (Exttoxnet: the Extension Toxicology Network)

Garden Pests

<http://entweb.clemson.edu/cuentres/cesheets/> (Clemson University Insect Photos)

http://www.isis.vt.edu/~fanjun/text/Link_pest5.html (Virginia Tech Household Insect Pest links)

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/deerbest.html> (Deer in the Urban Landscape - includes list of deer-resistant plants)

<http://www.bugspray.com/catalog/products/page186.html> (Ladybug control)

<http://http://marchbiological.com/L/ladybug.html#problem> (Ladybug control)

<http://www.ghorganics.com/BoxElderBugs.htm> (Box elder control)

<http://www.ghorganics.com/page11.html> (Ant control)

<http://www.ghorganics.com/page11.html> (American Mosquito Control Association)

And last but not least, three websites near and dear to my heart:

The Midwest Ecological Landscaping Association (MELA)

<http://www.melaweb.org>

“Let's Talk Gardening” on WGN Radio

<http://wgnradio.com/shows/gardening/index.html>

Chicagoland Gardening Magazine

<http://www.chicagolandgardening.com>

Some Books:

Native Trees for North American Landscapes by Guy Sternberg with Jim Wilson; Timber Press

Native Plants in the Home Landscape for the Upper Midwest by Keith Gerard Nowakowski; University of Illinois Extension

How to Get Your Lawn and Garden Off Drugs: A Basic Guide to Pesticide Free Gardening in North America by Carole Rubin; Harbour Publishing

How to Get Your Lawn Off Grass: A North American Guide to Turning off the Water Tap and Going Native by Carole Rubin; Harbour Publishing

Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology by Eric Grissell, with photographs by Carll Goodpasture; Timber Press

Ecology for Gardeners by Steven B. Carroll and Steven D. Salt; Timber Press

IPM for Gardeners: A Guide to Integrated Pest Management by Raymond A. Cloyd, Philip L. Nixon and Nancy R. Pataky; Timber Press

Weedless Gardening by Lee Reich; Workman Publishing

Allergy-Free Gardening: The Revolutionary Guide to Healthy Landscaping by Thomas Leo Ogren; Ten Speed Press

Safe Sex in the Garden and Other Propositions for an Allergy-Free World by Thomas Leo Ogren; Ten Speed Press

Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator: Edible Essays on City Farming by Spring Gillard; New Society Publishers

The Gardener's Guide to Common-Sense Pest Control by William Olkowski, Sheia Daar and Helga Olkowski; The Taunton Press

Natural Pest Control: Alternatives to Chemicals for the Home and Garden by Andrew Lopez; Harmonious Technologies

Rodale's All New Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening, by F.M. Bradley and Barbar Ellis, Rodale Press

The Vegetable Gardener's Bible, by Edward C. Smith, Storey Books

Carrots Love Tomatoes, by Louise Riotte, Storey Books

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, Timber Press