

# The organic garden

## Keep your garden growing with the Garden Organic Guidelines

### What are the guidelines?

- Describe best practice for healthy organic growing
- How to create/maintain diverse ecosystem needed for an organic garden, above and below ground
- List unacceptable practices in organic gardens
- Contribute to Bronze, Silver and Gold Mark Award

Recycle plant and animal waste to return nutrients to soil and potting mixes, eg compost and manure. Source waste carefully and apply at recommended rates

Minimise energy use, eg buy long lasting tools, reuse materials, make own energy, insulate greenhouses

Water only when needed, using collected rainwater first, eg water butts. Reduce water use by increasing soil moisture retention

Choose wood for raised beds, sheds, etc from local sustainable sources. Avoid preservatives where possible.

Grow plants in soil where possible. Plants in containers rely on feeding and watering, and are more prone to pests and diseases

### Pest and disease control

- Monitor plants for problems and act quickly if needed. Only use organic sprays as last resort.
- Prevention is best, eg grow flowers to attract natural pest predators, space/prune plants for good air flow to limit disease, and avoid/improve tricky growing conditions like waterlogged soil.

Remove weeds competing with crops for light, water, nutrients and space. Prevention is best, eg use light excluding mulch. Leave weeds that are good for wildlife

Ensure healthy start with good quality seeds and plants. Raise your own or buy organic

Illustrations: Verity Thompson

### Further information

Booklets: Bronze, Silver and Gold

Garden Organic Guidelines – for gardening

Full version available at [www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk)

Organic Gardening Guidelines



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