

Garden apps give advice and info about growing vegetables

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The image is a screenshot of the Burpee Home Gardens website. At the top left is the Burpee Home Gardens logo with a potted plant. To the right are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. A navigation bar contains links for Home, Edible Gardening, Garden Help, I Can Grow, Find a Store, News Room, and Blog. The main content area features a large image of a hand holding a smartphone displaying the 'BURPEE GARDEN COACH' app. Text on the left of the phone says 'Meet your Burpee Garden Coach™' and a red box below it says 'Just Text your zip or postal code to 80998'. To the right of the phone is a 'Product Search' box with a search button. Below that is a news snippet titled 'Robles Elementary in Tampa, FL' with a '2 tweets' icon and a 'Click to read more' link. Further down is a 'Tomatoes' section with a photo of tomatoes and the text 'How to choose the right one?'. A horizontal bar below contains three sections: 'Did You Know?' with a photo of vegetables and text about ancient Greeks and Romans; 'Vegetable Gardening Guide' with a sign-up for a free e-version of 'Garden Fresh' and a photo of the guide; and 'Listen to Gardening Tips' with a 'Tip of the Week with Joe Lamp'1' and a video player for 'Amending with organics'. The footer contains copyright information and various navigation links.

Two new mobile phone apps offer handy tools for gardeners.

First, Burpee Home Gardens introduces the Burpee Garden Coach, a free app for gardeners who like to grow what they eat. Through text messages and Web-based interaction via mobile phone, you learn how to choose, grow, maintain, harvest and eat backyard-grown veggies. To get started, text your ZIP code to 80998.

Features of the Burpee Garden Coach include:

- Text messages throughout the gardening season that provide planting date tips, maintenance reminders and support to improve vegetable gardening success.
- Access to the complete Burpee Home Gardens variety lineup at your fingertips.
- The ability to record, document and rate plants in a personalized garden journal.
- A way to get local weather forecasts to aid in garden maintenance.
- Harvesting ideas and inspirations from garden to table.
- Information on how to find Burpee Home Gardens plants at local garden centers.

To get the app, visit burpeehomegardens.com.

Secondly, the Arbor Day Foundation makes it easy to identify trees using your iPhone or iPod Touch.

The new app is called Arbor Day Tree Identification Guide: What Tree Is That? and is based on its similar print tree ID guide.

By identifying a few basic characteristics of a tree, such as leaf size and shape and branch structure, iPhone users can determine what type of tree is in their backyard, neighborhood, city park or just about anywhere.

One of the best features of this app is that it can be used anywhere, regardless of cell phone coverage, once it is downloaded.

The app features advanced botanical illustrations of the many distinctive characteristics of more than 250 tree species found in North America.

Once a tree is identified, the user can tag the tree at its exact location using the iPhone's global positioning system.

The app costs \$4.95 and can be purchased from your iPhone or at iTunes.

<http://www.freep.com/article/201104140300/FEATURES04/104140365>