

GARDENING

Dig into apps for help with your garden, landscape projects

Gannett

Garden apps have been springing up on smart phones for years. Some apps identify plant species and their natural pests, others design virtual gardens.

Leonard Schroeder, owner of Bloomers Home & Garden Center in Sewell, N.J., says branching out with more resources only gives your plants a better chance.

"No one has fun when stuff dies," Schroeder says. "These apps reinforce information that you might not be able to get without talking to an expert."

Leafsnap

Leafsnap, the one app Becky Szkotak has on her iPhone for "horticulture gardening stuff," needs only a photograph of a leaf, cone or fruit to identify its species, rendering high-resolution images of its flowers, petiole, seeds, bark and fruit.

The free mobile app includes the trees of New York City and Washington, D.C., but will expand to cover the trees of the entire continental U.S., according to developers Columbia University, the University of Maryland and the Smithsonian Institution.

Find at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/leafsnap-for-ipad/id433522683?mt=8>

Dirr's Tree and Shrub Finder

Michael A. Dirr has a definitive 1,325-page guide of everything agriculture, "The Manual of Woody Landscape Plant," and in his \$14.99 mobile app "Dirr's Tree and Shrub Finder." The mobile app's plant database of 1,670 species and 7,800 cultivars — including 7,600 high-quality images of trees, shrubs, vines and ground covers — is searchable by 72 criteria.

But \$14.99 is still a lot for an app.

Find at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dirrs-tree-and-shrub-finder/id410437012?mt=8>

Garden Buddy

For \$1.99, the Garden Buddy has your back, assisting your backyard overhaul by calculating how much mulch, sod and topsoil to use, along with determining what type of fertilizer to add once you plug in soil-test results. Find at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/garden-buddy/id368362562?mt=8>

Bugs and Insects

A great resource for gardeners, the Bugs and Insects app helps find the fiends feasting on your harvest with a database of more than 900 pests. The 99-cent app allows you to create a lineup of culprits to watch out for.

Find at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/>

bugs-and-insects/
id332511130?mt=8

Burpee Garden Coach

Via its website, Burpee Home Gardens presents a free app. Through text messages and online interaction, you learn how to choose, grow, maintain, harvest and eat backyard-grown veggies.

Find at: www.burpee-homegardens.com/GardenHelp/coachmevideo.aspx

The Plant Doctor

"The Plant Doctor," a \$1.99 iPhone app deduces the root of the problem, and a detailed solution, after you choose from a field of 32 common symptoms.

If the problem is not listed, fill out a form on the application to receive advice and an official diagnosis.

Find at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-plant-doctor/id306625566?mt=8>

Vegetable Gardening Guide

For \$2.99, Vegetable Gardening Guide gives iPhone and iPad users simple step-by-step planting instructions, including how to install drop irrigation, growing-season information, and recipes specific to the veggies you harvest.

Find at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/vegetable-gardening-guide/id366357035?mt=8>

