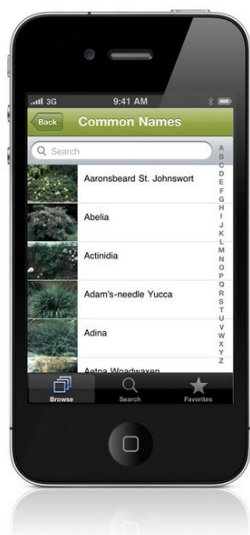




New gardening apps from shrub and tree expert Michael Dirr, Burpee and Bonnie Plants

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By Kym Pokorny, The Oregonian



My favorite gardening app at the moment – and probably for many moments to come – is "Plants vs. Zombies." Actually, does a video game qualify as an app? I bought it at the app store, so I think it does. I taught my 10-year-old niece, Riley, how to play it last weekend, and she drained my iPhone battery twice. OK, I've done that, too.

A new app has captured my attention: "Dirr's Tree and Shrub Finder." Though I have only had time to download and peruse it quickly, the almost 10,000 trees, shrubs, vines and ground covers detailed within it's virtual pages guarantee that I'll be back. Based on Michael Dirr's authoritative "The Manual of Woody Landscape Plants," I have no doubt the app will be instantly popular.

The Martha Stewart Living app makes me want an iPad (well, that's not the only reason). With videos,

additional how-tos and beautiful-beyond-belief photos, it's better than the magazine.

Another I'm excited about is from Burpee. I especially like the idea of getting weather updates and texts with tips and planting dates and so forth.

Bonnie Plants has launched a mobile version of the website that's all about edibles. You'll find information on planting, harvesting, simple garden plans and recipes. You can even shop.

The Clean Air Gardening blog gives an assessment of 10 apps, including Flower Pedia, which is featured in "What's Hot" on the Apple App Store, and the one I need the most, Garden ToDo.

-- Kym Pokorny