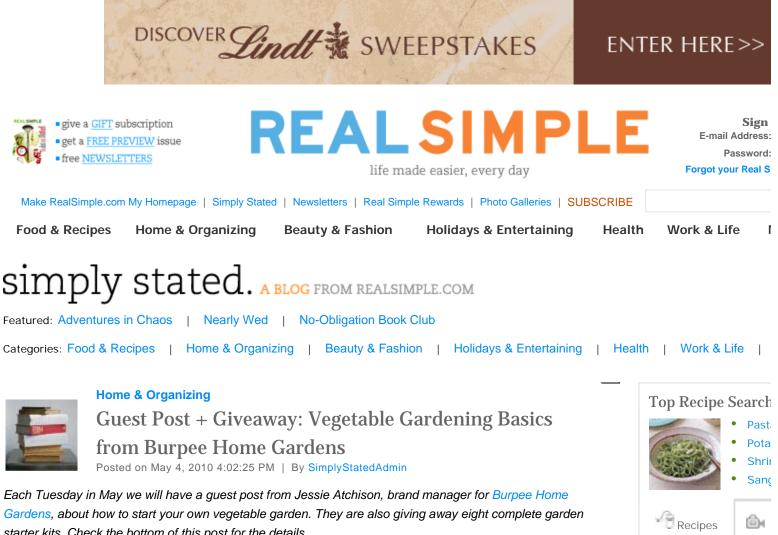


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starter kits. Check the bottom of this post for the details.

Once a mainstay of our grandparents' summer routines, home food gardening is now being rediscovered by a new generation. Whether in backyard beds, community garden plots, or public schoolyards, millions of people are enjoying the benefits of growing their own vegetables and herbs.

Planting an edible garden is a great way to save money and cut down on trips to the grocery store. A garden full of tomatoes, peppers, lettuces, melons, and more can keep a family eating for months, if planned properly.

However, homegrown vegetables don't just answer the needs of your pocketbook; they can help you eat better, get more exercise, and reduce your carbon footprint.

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So whether you are happily returning to the soil this year, or you're new to donning a pair of garden gloves, welcome to the garden! Each planting season brings its own successes--and challenges--but the rewards are always plentiful.

And now for the giveaway:

Eight lucky readers will win a Burpee Home Gardens starter set with tomato, pepper, and basil plants (see varieties listed below). To enter the contest simply leave a comment, maybe whether or not you're starting a garden this year, or what your favorite thing to grow is, on this post between now and Thursday, May 13th. We will then choose eight random numbers (from random.org) and match those numbers with the winning commenters.

Each starter box contains: Boxwood Basil Sweet Italian Large Leaf Basil 4th of July Tomatoes Napa Grape Hybrid Tomatoes Early Girl Tomato Bush Red Delicious Peppers Costa Rican Sweet Peppers

Check back on Friday, May 14th to see if you are a winner, and for details on how to claim your prize. Good luck!

(image from Burpee Home Gardens)

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