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Home & Organizing

Vegetable Gardening Basics, Plus a Giveaway

Posted on May 4, 2010 4:02:25 PM | By [SimplyStatedAdmin](#)

Each Tuesday in May we will have a guest post from Jessie Atchison, brand manager for [Burpee Home Gardens](#), about how to start your own vegetable garden. They are also giving away eight complete garden 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](#))

UPDATE: Vegetable Garden Starter Box Winners

Thanks for all your wonderful comments, and without further ado, here are our 8 randomly selected winners. If you see your comment below, please be on the look out for an e-mail from Kristin Appenbrink with additional details:

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- [Kristin Appen](#)
- [Kate Ashford](#)
- [Holly Becker](#)
- [Kristin Brandt](#)
- [Corynne Cork](#)
- [Dory Devlin](#) |
- [Erin Doland](#) |
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- [Kathleen Muri](#)
- [Kate Parker](#) |
- [Julie Rottenb](#)
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- [Jennifer Sbra](#)
- [Sarah Smith](#)
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It was a childhood tradition to help my Mom in her garden on Mother's Day. This year, we're reviving the old tradition and creating a new veggie garden. We've already been prepping the beds and stirring the compost. Here's hoping for a fruitful, veggie-full season! Happy gardening all!

Posted by: [Becca](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 06:36 PM

My Husband and I enjoyed growing Herbs, but since he died, I have let the weeds take over. Seeing this post has renewed my interest.

Posted by: [Rebecca Booth](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 10:21 PM

My husband and I wanted to start square foot gardening this year, but isn't it already too late to start a garden?!

Posted by: [Heather Longoria](#) | Wednesday, May 05, 2010 at 07:30 AM

I'm starting an herb garden this year. Two years ago I started with clippings from my Mother in Law. Everything was great until I brought them inside for the winter. I was hoping they would continue to grow as they do at her home. I won't bring them inside this year.

Posted by: [Cherie](#) | Wednesday, May 05, 2010 at 03:39 PM

Taking a stab at growing tomatoes, red bell peppers and basil this year. Need all the help I can get!

Posted by: [JACQUELYN](#) | Wednesday, May 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

I'm attempting my first vegetable garden this year and am very excited! So far I've direct sowed seeds for cool-weather veggies. I could really use the Burpee starter set, as I was too nervous to start seeds indoors my first time around.

Posted by: [Amanda](#) | Wednesday, May 05, 2010 at 06:05 PM

Tomatoes tomatoes tomatoes...my favorite thing to grow and eat!

Posted by: [lori](#) | Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 04:38 PM

So far I've got an Anaheim pepper in a big pot on my balcony. So far so good! I'd love to have a kit so I can grow some salsa. =)

Posted by: [Kristen](#) | Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 07:02 PM

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We started our home garden this year with grape tomatoes, eggplant and zucchini. We are looking to expand our initial plot with various herbs. Hope to win this great giveaway! Thank you!

Posted by: junie| Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:14 PM

Since hubby has been laid off for almost 18 mos, we are definitely having a garden this year. He will have the time to take care of it, we will save money AND be eating better! Will start with tomatoes, green peppers, zucchini and going from there. Herbs would be great!

Posted by: Pam| Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:16 PM

I have a sister who moved into her home this past winter. She has three young sons that love fresh veggies and fruit. They were so thrilled to see things grow at a farm that I know she wants to have them grow their own goodies this year. The boys love tomatoes and herbs and watermelon.

Posted by: maureen| Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:38 PM

Right now I'm working in a local community garden, but would love to start a (balcony) garden at my own place! (I don't have a yard yet...)

Posted by: Linda| Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:38 PM

I am dying to start a home garden. Maybe winning this would finally give me the motivation to get started.

Posted by: Aubree Wisley| Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:39 PM

Nobody laugh! My green thumb has turned to the black thumb of death! Hopefully I won't kill my tomato plants this year. My angel trumpet plant died a slow horrible death last year as did my watermelon plants :>{ Maybe I should go with the pretty plastic plants!

Posted by: Lori Roche| Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:40 PM

i am starting my first vegetable garden this year - so excited!!

http://simplystated.realsimple.com/simplystated/2010/05/burpee-gardens-one.html?utm_source=feedburn... 5/19/2010



Past Contrib

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Posted by: [elizabeth sullivan](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:44 PM

I had a successful contained garden last year and thus am taking a step up to raised beds. My favorite plants to grow are tomatoes and peppers - perfect for homemade salsa!

Posted by: [Tara](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:44 PM

We're definitely looking to expand our veggie garden this year, maybe with some tomatoes to start.

Posted by: [Amanda](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 04:58 PM

Just moved into a house with a YARD so definitely starting a garden ASAP!

Posted by: [mirabelle](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 05:02 PM

I plan to start a small herb garden, but vegetables would be delicious!!

Posted by: [Dawn](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 05:03 PM

My son told me today that he was going to build me a raised bed for Mother's Day. I am so excited. Now some where to plant things.

Posted by: [vikki parman](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 05:06 PM

I've just started composting this year and looking forward to starting a garden!

Posted by: [Samantha](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 05:09 PM

I would love to start a vegetable/herb garden at some point in the near future, perhaps this summer. I love the idea of going out to the garden for my supply of tomatoes and fresh herbs, which I use a lot in my cooking!

Posted by: [Caitlin](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 05:12 PM

Thanks for the giveaway! I live in an apartment but have had great luck with basil and grape tomatoes in a very sunny window. I would love to expand my "garden" this year!

Posted by: [Katie](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 05:22 PM

Can't wait to get started. The sun is shining and I'm ready to garden - but I think we aren't past the frost date yet. But all of those plants look so beautiful at the garden centers! I remember Burpee from my mom - I'll have to send her this link!

Posted by: [Deborah](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 05:56 PM

I will definitely be growing a garden this year, especially because my fiance and I just bought our own home with our own little backyard -- we cannot wait for our veggie garden!

Posted by: [Diane P.](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 06:27 PM

It was a childhood tradition to help my Mom in her garden on Mother's Day. This year, we're reviving the old tradition and creating a new veggie garden. We've already been prepping the beds and stirring the compost. Here's hoping for a fruitful, veggie-full season! Happy gardening all!

Posted by: [Becca](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 06:36 PM

We are moving up from just containers to actual "beds" this year!

Posted by: [Melissa](#) | Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 06:41 PM

gplants and okra. I have been considering a raised
v anything about the soils.
56 PM



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