



Growing Guru



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GARDENING DURING A PANDEMIC

In Spring 2020 with no Waltham Garden Club meetings and lots of gardening articles and information in my newsfeeds, I decided to compile some info to share with others. This was how my "Growing Guru" feature for our club newsletter "sprouted." I have limited all future ones to one page, however.

THE VICTORY GARDEN ASPECT

CBS SUNDAY MORNING video 5 April 2020 - <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/victory-gardens-for-the-pandemic/>
"Victory Gardens" for the pandemic" - "With spring in the air, people are looking to plant gardens. But the coronavirus pandemic and the challenging times facing those in lockdown have brought to mind among some green thumbs the victory gardens of World War II. Tracy Smith reports on how nurseries are now selling out, not of flower bulbs, but of vegetables, and how online tutorials about growing your own food are sprouting up everywhere."

<https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2020-04-16/a-history-of-victory-gardens>

A short history of the victory garden, or how to get through the COVID-19 crisis by planting your own food. Includes 5 Victory Garden posters from WWI and WWII.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/seeds-crisis-gardening-coronavirus-food_n_5e85eca0c5b6f55ebf492212

"How The Coronavirus Pandemic Has Led To A Boom In Crisis Gardening"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/08/smarter-living/how-to-start-your-own-garden.html>

"How to Grow a Victory Garden of Any Size" - reminder of all the places one can grow plants

<https://www.realtor.com/news/trends/victory-gardens-make-a-comeback-amid-coronavirus/>

"Here's Why You Should Plant a 'Victory Garden' While Sheltering at Home This Spring" - short article with links to other info

<https://slate.com/human-interest/2020/04/victory-garden-coronavirus-wwii-history.html>

"Gardening Is a Really Concrete Way That People Can Feel Empowered"

HOW TO GROW PLANTS FROM KITCHEN ITEMS (if you can only go out for groceries)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/gardening-jim-hole-how-to-regrow-veggies-at-home-covid19-1.5544607>

Gardening guru explains how to regrow veggies from scraps - Green onions, carrots, lettuce, celery, potatoes, and herbs can all be regrown indoors at home. [NMES NOTE: try ginger too.]

<https://www.greenmatters.com/p/kitchen-scrap-gardening>

"Open Your Minds (And Fridges) to Sustainable Kitchen Scrap Gardening"

<https://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/gardening/outdoor/scrub-gardening>

"How to Grow Your Own Produce from Kitchen Scraps"

GARDENING IDEAS AND REFLECTIONS

<https://morningchores.com/gardening-for-seniors/>

"15 Tips to Make Gardening for Seniors Easier and More Accessible"

<https://www.inverse.com/science/gardening-coronavirus>

4 gardening activities you can do while self-isolating (from an Australian source) that are good for your mental health, public health, and the planet. Many links in the article to more info.

[Original source with different pictures: <https://theconversation.com/running-out-of-things-to-do-in-isolation-get-back-in-the-garden-with-these-ideas-from-4-experts-134229>]

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/2020/mar/29/earthly-delights-gardening-in-a-time-of-crisis>

"Earthly delights: gardening in a time of crisis" by Olivia Laing [NMES NOTE: amen!]

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-8094565/amp/Gardening-group-share-three-types-PLANTS-use-substitute-toilet-paper.html> [NMES NOTE: funniest one of all]



"Plant experts list three types of LEAVES you can use 'instead of toilet paper' - as coronavirus panic-buying clears supermarket shelves of the product.....

But the Hills Herbal Collective caution against using plants that are poisonous or that contain thorns."

FREE GARDEN COURSES ONLINE (to keep you busy while staying home)

- <https://www.bhg.com/news/free-online-gardening-courses/>

Better Homes & Gardens

"While staying home and social distancing to avoid spreading COVID-19, you may be finding yourself with more time to spend in your garden. And now that it's spring, it's the [perfect time to get planting!](#) To help you learn exactly how to get started, a number of organizations are offering free

online gardening classes, and right now a few are even making some of their paid classes free for a limited time."

NMES NOTE: That "perfect time to get planting!" above takes you to **5 tips for getting needed supplies while social distancing.** 1) Make a phone call. 2) Seek out seeds. 3) Go online for plants. 4) Don't forget the hard goods. 5) Practice patience.

- <https://gardentutor.com/> - click Learning tab at upper right for 8 modules

Garden Tutor

- https://study.com/articles/List_of_Free_Online_Horticulture_Courses_and_Training_Programs.html -



Organizations and universities offering free online courses and training programs in agriculture, garden planning, landscaping and pest control.

- <https://www.smilinggardener.com/organic-gardening/> - FREE Organic Gardening Course to Grow Nutrient-Dense Food



WAYS TO ACQUIRE AND PROVIDE NEW PLANTS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

In Spring 2020, my mind went to ways that one could get more plants without leaving our homes. In my case, I had collected lots of seeds in the previous season to give away in seed packets. This is a picture of my M - Z bin and a bunch of extra envelopes and bottles with dry seeds. So, I could plant those seeds, grow new plants, and then collect seeds again.



Pot up weedy violets from your lawn and they suddenly look perfect. I always get violets picked out of the yard for Mother's Day anyway, but these looked the best ever.

Use small vases or any receptacle that holds water and hope for root formation. Check the water level every day. Pot in soil once roots have formed.



If you know someone who has a tomato plant, ask them for a sprig/cutting. I rooted these from large plants that were still in a greenhouse in March.



I have found that about 25% of fall chrysanthemums come back in the spring. My neighbor brings me tossed pots and plants from the cemetery, so the soil and pots can be reused by WGC. I leave the dead tops on over winter and put the pots in a sheltered area. Once new leaves appear in spring, the dead parts are snipped off. Eventually I plant these into my garden. Not all mums come back year after year, but some do. Free flowers!

