

Online Farming & Gardening Resources

Site Name:	Description:	Link:
Virginia Cooperative Extension	Virginia Cooperative Extension is an educational outreach program of Virginia's land-grant universities: Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, and a part of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.	https://ext.vt.edu/
Tennessee Cooperative Extension	UT Extension's mission is to help Tennesseans improve their quality of life and solve problems through the application of research and evidence based knowledge about agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development.	https://utextension.tennessee.edu/
USDA National Farmers Market Directory	Lists markets that feature two or more farm vendors selling agricultural products directly to customers at a common, recurrent physical location.	https://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets
USDA Beginning Farmers	A one stop shop for beginning farmers and ranchers to learn about how to get started.	https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers
National Gardening Association	An online learning library, plant database, gardening calculators, calendars, and apps.	https://garden.org/learn/library/plantguide/
The Herb Society of America	All you could ever want to know about herbs.	https://www.herbsociety.org/

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map	Enter your zip code to see which U.S. plant hardiness zone you live in. This is great to know when buying plants from catalogs and magazines so you know the plants will survive winters in your yard.	https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/
Arbor Day Foundation	Tree identification, planting, and care.	https://www.arborday.org/
Mother Earth News	Lots of great articles of sustainable living.	https://www.motherearthnews.com/
The Farmers' Almanac	Seed starting dates, planting dates, plant guides – lots of good reference info.	https://www.almanac.com/gardening
Backyard Chickens	Information on raising chickens in urban, suburban, and rural settings.	https://www.backyardchickens.com/
Web Soil Survey	Provides soil data and info produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey.	https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm

CONTINUED READING GUIDE

This guide is for those who wish to dig a little deeper into the sustainable agriculture world and is in no way comprehensive. Consider it a starting point of continued inquiry once you have completed the Grow Your Own Program.

Gardening:

- **Carrots Love Tomatoes** by Louise Riotte
- **Four Season Harvest** by Eliot Coleman
- **Insect Pests of Farm, Garden, and Orchard** by Ralph H. Davidson & William F. Lyon
- **Integrated Forest Gardening: The Complete Guide to Polycultures and Plant Guilds in Permaculture Systems** by Daniel Halsey, Bryce Ruddock, Wayne Weiseman
- **Storey's Guide to Growing Organic Orchard Fruits** by Danny L. Barney
- **The Living Soil Handbook: The No-Till Grower's Guide to Ecological Market Gardening** by Jesse Frost
- **The Market Gardener: A Successful Grower's Handbook for Small-Scale Organic Farming** by Jean-Martin Fortier and Marie Bilodeau
- **The New Organic Grower: A Master's Manual for Tools and Techniques for the Home and Market Gardener** by Eliot Coleman
- **Will Bonsall's Essential Guide to Radical, Self Reliant Gardening** by Will Bonsall
- **Year-Round Indoor Salad Gardening: How to Grow Nutrient-Dense Soil-Sprouted Greens in Less Than 10 Days** by Peter Burke

Farming/Homesteading:

- **Building Soils for Better Crops** by Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es
- **The Backyard Homestead: Book of Building Projects** edited by Spike Carlsen
- **The Backyard Homestead Book of Kitchen Know-How: Field to Table Cooking Skills** by Andrea Chesman
- **The Backyard Homestead: Guide to Raising Farm Animals** edited by Gail Damerow
- **The Backyard Homestead: Produce all the food you need on just a quarter acre** edited by Carleen Madigan
- **The Farmers' Almanac**
- **The Lean Farm Guide to Growing Vegetables: More In-Depth Lean Techniques for Efficient Organic Production** by Ben Hartman
- **The No-Till Organic Vegetable Farm** by Daniel Mays
- **The Small Scale Poultry Flock** by Harvey Ussery

Value Added:

- **The Art of Fermentation: An In-Depth Exploration on Fermenting Vegetables, Fruits, Grains, Milk, Beans, Meats, and More** by Sandor Ellix Katz
- **The Herbal Medicine-Maker's Handbook** by James Green

- **The Organic Medicinal Herb Farmer: The Ultimate Guide to Producing High-Quality Herbs on a Market Scale** by Jeff and Melanie Carpenter

Nature, Environment, and Community:

- **Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life** by Barbara Kingsolver
- **A Small Farm Future: Making the Case for a Society Built Around Local Economies, Self-Provisioning, Agricultural Diversity and a Shared Earth** by Chris Smaje
- **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- **Bringing it to the Table: On Farming and Food** by Wendell Berry
- **Call of the Reed Warbler: A New Agriculture a New Earth** by Charles Massy
- **Dancing with Bees: A Journey Back to Nature** by Brigit Strawbridge Howard
- **Rebuilding the Foodshed: How to Create Local Sustainable, and Secure Food Systems** by Philip Ackerman-Leist
- **Second Nature: A Gardener's Education** by Michael Pollan
- **The Good Life: Helen and Scott Nearing's Sixty Years of Self-Sufficient Living** by Helen and Scott Nearing
- **The Reindeer Chronicles and Other Inspiring Stories of Working with Nature to Heal the Earth** by Judith D. Schwartz