Wandering the Web -- Gardening

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Gardening is a favorite past time of many. Before the Internet, novice gardeners had to rely on the sometimes dubious or conflicting advice from family, friends, or neighbors. Failing that, one could gather information, usually for a fee, from gardening classes, books, and magazines. With the arrival of the Internet, it is extremely easy to find absolutely everything you could ever want to know about gardening, plants, trees, pests. Here are several Websites dedicated to gardening, landscaping, and plant, bird, and insect biology. All information is free unless mentioned.

### General Gardening

**Dave’s Garden** — [http://davesgarden.com](http://davesgarden.com) — **Dave’s Garden** is a gardener’s paradise on the Web. It offers identification guides for bugs, birds, butterflies, and plants, gardening glossaries, articles, video gardening tutorials, and freeze and frost dates for your area. It includes links to retailers, mail order catalogs, and has a classifieds section. Users can even post pictures of their gardens or communicate with other gardeners via the chat function. If you register with the site, there is a place where you can blog, journal, communicate with other members, and maintain a wish list of plants you would like to trade with others. The site is also easy to navigate.

**National Gardening Association** — [http://www.garden.org](http://www.garden.org) — The National Gardening Association’s Website offers national gardening news, articles, a weed library, a plant finder, a “questions and answers” section, videos, pest control advice, a seed swap, message boards, grants and awards, an “adopter-a-garden” option, newsletters, and a curriculum to teach about gardening. This is a visually appealing Website.

**USDA Plants Database** — [http://plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov) — This database offers very specific information about hundreds of types of plants. Users can search for them by scientific name or common name using the provided search engine. Facts about specific plants include uses, alternate names, management, status, pests/problems, description, whether the plant is considered to be a weed, adaptation/distribution, establishment, and a photo of the plant. The site also identifies threatened and endangered species and weeds, complete with pictures.

### Organic Gardening

**Organic Gardening** — [http://www.organicgrowing.com](http://www.organicgrowing.com) — Although this is the Website for the magazine *Organic Gardening*, it offers a lot of helpful information for free. There are blogs, how-to information, tips about soil and composting, a free weekly newsletter, discussions, and videos. All the information on this site pertains to organic gardening.

### Trees

**Arbor Day Foundation** — [http://www.arbor.org](http://www.arbor.org) — As well as promoting the planting of trees and having information about the foundation, this is a handy Website to learn about trees. The site offers identifying information, instructs one where to plant specific trees, how to prune them, which zone they should be planted in, and other interesting information about trees.

### Weeds

**Weed ID Guide** — [http://weedid.missouri.edu/index.cfm](http://weedid.missouri.edu/index.cfm) — This site has everything you ever wanted to know about weeds. Search for information by weed habitat, common name, or scientific name. Results show a picture, identifying information, habitat, root type, and a description.