

# Organic Gardening Tips

## [Location of the garden](#)

According to Utah State University Extension your garden should be in an open space which receives at least 7 hours of sunlight per day. For more great information on starting your own garden you can utilize their pamphlet Gardening 101 – Guide for Beginners.

## [Watering in a desert](#)

Water is essential for life, including that of your garden! However, living in a desert with frequent water restrictions through the summer might cause problems. Installing a drip system is best for gardens in Utah.



This provides the soil directly with the water it needs to grow healthy plants with the least amount of evaporation into the air.

A drip system is not always in the budget. If not, water your garden in the early morning hours, prior to the heat of the day. This will reduce evaporation and provide more benefit to your garden. Watering earlier in the day gives your plants the moisture it will need to survive the heat as well as give

time to allow the water to dry from the leaves of your plants reducing the chance of powdery mildew which can stunt growth.

## [Soil Health](#)

### **“Feed the Soil, Not the Plants”**

Junk food, including organic junk food, has plenty of calories and may include added vitamins. But it's not great long-term nourishment, for many reasons we've learned and others we can so far only observe. Our bodies know the difference between eating a carrot and taking a capsule of vitamin A. Same deal with the soil.

**In other words:** Plant health depends on healthy roots; healthy roots depend on healthy soil for air, water and nutrients delivered in forms plants can use. Soil rich in organic matter — compost! — is generally rich in nutrients and in the teeming life (fungi, bacteria, worms, etc.) that makes those nutrients available to the plants.”

### **[Companion Planting to repel pests and attract pollinators](#)**

If you choose to garden organically you have also chosen to forgo using chemical pesticides. You can keep pests away from your fruits and vegetables naturally by plant placement. Some plants are great friends and grow well together, while some simply do not get along! For instance, planting carrots with onions will keep the onion fly from eating the onions. Planting basil by tomatoes will attract honeybees to pollinate the tomato flowers.

Here is a list [of plants which grow well together and what should not be planted together](#).

For more information on companion planting [click here](#)

If this is your first time companion planting and you want to do it without being overwhelmed you can [start here!](#)