3 Common Gardening Mistakes Guaranteed to Ruin Your Yields

Categories: Growing your Own, Homesteading

There's a lot to learn about gardening, and while some people are naturally inclined with a green thumb, the rest of us learn through a never-ending series of trial-and-error. Although there are literally thousands of pages detailing what you must do to keep your garden healthy and happy, there aren't very many resources detailing what you should never do.

If you're just starting out in the world of gardening, and wish to make this transition as seamless and productive as possible, then continue reading to uncover the top 3 most common gardening mistakes, which are guaranteed to ruin your garden.

The Top 5 Gardening Mistakes
**Mistake #1 | Grand Visions Without Grand Knowledge**

Perhaps one of the most common mistakes made by new gardeners is simply starting off too big. While you may have a grand vision of what you wish your garden to look like, without proper experience, equipment and knowledge, what starts off in good intentions will quickly lead to frustration, headaches and a garden that's disappointing.

The best way to begin a gardening strategy is to start small within your first year. Use this as a growing opportunity, for not only your plants, but also your knowledge. You'll find honing your gardening skills to be far easier on a smaller scale. As you grow in your abilities, slowly add more plants and begin detailing the garden of your dreams.

**Mistake #2 | Foregoing Sunlight Recommendations**

Sure, there's a little wiggle room when it comes to the exact amount of sunlight needed to grow healthy, vibrant plants. However, the most common mistake made by novice gardeners is to completely ignore light requirements. Every plant features unique light requirements, and if you do not actively work to satisfy these requirements, then you'll soon find yourself standing among a garden of dead or ailing plants.

The first step in preventing this problem is to learn the layout of your garden. How much sunlight do specific areas receive? It's only with this knowledge are you able to purchase plants and position them in the best location based upon their unique needs.

**Mistake #3 | Over or Under-Fertilizing Your Plants**

There are few mistakes capable of completely destroying the health and yield of your garden than over or under-fertilizing the plants. Although fertilizer is an essential component for a healthy and happy garden, misuse of its ingredients can literally burn plants at their core.

The variables that go into determining the best type of fertilizer are just as varied as the plants themselves. Too much, too little, incorrect timing and the wrong type of fertilizer will prove detrimental to the health of your garden. For example, all plants thrive on nitrogen to grow. Because of this, many fertilizers feature high-nitrogen content. While certain plants, such as lettuce, require high nitrogen fertilizers for optimum growth, the same amount of fertilizer will stimulate excessive top growth for other plants, which will reduce its fruiting potential.

Therefore, it's imperative that you go easy on the fertilizer and do your research regarding the exact amounts needed for specific plants.

*(Image from: [James Mann])*