

BEGIN A GARDEN JOURNAL

A good garden journal is a valuable tool for any gardener, whether you're a novice or an experienced enthusiast. It serves as a personal record of your gardening journey, helping you track progress, learn from experiences, and plan for future seasons. Here are some key elements that can make a good garden journal:

1. Sections for Key Information:

Plant Profiles

- Create sections for each plant variety you have in your garden. Include information such as the plant's name, variety, date planted, and any specific care instructions.

Weather Records

- Document weather conditions, temperature extremes, and any unusual weather events that may impact your garden.

Soil Notes

- Record observations about your soil, including its type, amendments, and any changes you make to improve its quality.

2. Planting and Harvesting Log

- Note when you sow seeds or transplant seedlings into your garden.
- Record the dates when you harvest fruits, vegetables, or flowers. Include notes on the quantity and quality of the harvest.

3. Garden Layout and Design

- Include simple drawings or diagrams of your garden layout. Mark the locations of plants, pathways, and any structures.
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- Document any changes you make to the garden layout or design over time.

4. Pest and Disease Monitoring

- Describe any pests you encounter, including their appearance and the affected plants.
- Note signs of diseases in your garden and any treatments you apply.

5. Successes and Failures

- Reflect on how each plant is doing. Note successes and any challenges faced.
- Document lessons learned from both successful and less successful gardening experiences.

6. Seasonal Observations

- Record when plants bloom or produce blossoms. Note the colors, scents, and any companion plants that seem to enhance their growth.
- Document the changing colours of leaves in the autumn and when deciduous plants shed their leaves.

7. **Maintenance and Tasks**

- Keep track of when you perform maintenance tasks, such as pruning or trimming plants.
- Record dates of fertilising, watering schedules, and any changes made to your plant care routine.

8. **Photographs and Sketches**

- Adding a section for photographs or sketches can enhance your journal. Visuals can help you see the evolution of your garden and aid in planning.

9. **Personal Notes and Reflections**

- Gardener's Thoughts - Write notes about your experiences, feelings, and thoughts related to your garden. This adds a personal touch to your journal.

10. **Resource Section**

- Include a section for gardening tips, articles, or references that you find valuable. These Millbrook guides for example!

11. **Garden Goals**

- Outline your gardening goals for the season and the year ahead. Regularly revisit and update these goals.

12. **Seasonal Checklists**

- Create checklists for each season, outlining tasks to be completed and goals to achieve.

13. **Calendar Integration**

- Integrate monthly calendar pages to help you visualise planting and harvesting schedules, as well as any important events in your garden.

A well-organized and regularly updated garden journal can become a valuable resource, providing insights into your garden's unique conditions and helping you become a more successful and informed gardener over time.