



I'm Not Really a Garden Expert, I Just Play One on the Radio
Presented by Mike Nowak of “The Mike Nowak Show with Peggy Malecki”
and the late, great *Chicagoland Gardening Magazine*
Author of *Attack of the Killer Asparagus and Other Lessons Not Learned in the Garden*
Podcasts and videos at <https://mikenowak.net>

Quick Links:

www.aroundtheblockpress.com (*Attack of the Killer Asparagus*)
<https://chicagogardeningawards.org> Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards
<http://www.nachicago.com/> (*Natural Awakenings* Chicago Magazine)
<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/horticulture> (Illinois Extension Horticulture)

Plant Health Care and General Helpful Info

<https://mortonarb.org/about-arboretum/plant-health-care-report/> (Morton Arboretum Plant Health Care Report)
https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/soil_testing_infosheet.pdf (Soil testing info)
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/vegguide/> (Illinois Vegetable Garden Guide)
<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/containergardening/> (Successful Container Gardens)
<http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/weedid/> (U of I Weed ID)
<https://www.twibchicago.com/> (This Week in Birding – Chicago area bird issues)
<https://xerces.org/> The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
<https://www.ilcpr.org/> Illinois Coalition for Plastic Reduction
<https://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/lawns-and-landscapes/overview> Lawns and Landscapes (Beyond Pesticides)
<https://tinyurl.com/Purdue-Arborvitae> Stop Making These Arborvitae Mistakes! – Purdue
<https://tinyurl.com/MotherJonesGlyphosate> We Are Bombarding America’s Forests with Roundup (Mother Jones)
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/not-your-mothers-roundup> Not Your Mother’s Roundup (MSU)

Compost/Composting/Soil Food Web/Mulch

<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/composting-resources> (IL Extension Composting)
<https://illinoiscomposts.org/resources/> (Illinois Food Scrap Coalition Compost 101)
<https://illinoiscomposts.org/composting-at-home/> (Composting food scraps at Home)
<https://tinyurl.com/2zf2j4mu> (Do’s and Don’ts of Composting - Cornell University)

Local/Urban/Healthy Food

<https://localfoodforum.substack.com/> (Local Food Forum)
<http://auachicago.org/> (Advocates for Urban Agriculture)
<https://ampleharvest.org/> (AmpleHarvest.org)
<https://localharvest.org/> (Local Harvest)

Native Plants and Gardens

<https://www.monarchgard.com/> (Monarch Gardens LLC - Benjamin Vogt)
<https://www.possibilityplace.com/> (Possibility Place Nursery – local native plants)
<https://www.mipn.org/> (Midwest Invasive Plant Network)
<https://www.luriegarden.org/plant-life/> (Plants of Lurie Garden)
<https://wildones.org/> (Wild Ones – connecting people and native plants)
<http://wildflower.org/> (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center)
<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/> Homegrown National Park

Recycling

<https://chicagorecyclingcoalition.org/> (Chicago Recycling Coalition)
www.illinoisrecycles.org (Illinois Recycling Association/Illinois Recycling Foundation)
www.scarcecoed.org/ (School & Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting
 Education –it’s where to recycle books!)

Some Books (Not the "ultimate" list–just some books that have caught my attention.)

What If We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson
What to Grow for a Climate Resilient Garden by Dr. Amanda Rasmussen
Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens by Douglas W. Tallamy
Nature’s Best Hope by Douglas W. Tallamy
Plant This, Not That by Elise Howard
The Humane Gardener by Nancy Larsen
The Tallgrass Prairie: An Introduction by Cindy Crosby
Chasing Dragonflies: A Natural, Cultural, and Personal History by Cindy Crosby
The Healthy Garden: Simple Steps for a Greener World by Kathleen Norris Brenzel and Mary-Kate Mackey
Herbaceous Perennial Plants, 4th Edition by Allan Armitage
Month-By-Month Gardening, Illinois, Indiana & Ohio by Beth Botts
Fearless Food Gardening in Chicagoland by Teresa Gale and LaManda Joy
The Monarch: Saving Our Most-Loved Butterfly by Kylee Baumlee
Epic Tomatoes: How to Select & Grow the Best Varieties of All Time by Craig LeHoullier
Coffee for Roses: ...and 70 Other Misleading Myths About Backyard Gardening by C.L. Fornari
The Soil Will Save Us by Kristin Ohlson
Rodale’s Basic Organic Gardening by Deborah L. Martin
Midwest Gardener’s Handbook by Melinda Myers
How Plants Work: The science behind the amazing things plants do by Linda Chalker-Scott
A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon’s Flight to Extinction by Joel Greenberg
The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants, an Illustrated Guide By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz
Weeds: In Defense of Nature’s Most Unloved Plants by Richard Mabey
Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln’s Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities by Amy Stewart
Rodale’s All New Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening by F.M. Bradley and Barbara Ellis
Teaming with Microbes, A Gardener’s Guide to the Soil Food Web by Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis
The Organic Lawn Care Manual by Paul Tukey
Native Trees for North American Landscapes by Guy Sternberg with Jim Wilson
The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques by Tracy DiSabato-Aust
The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan
Natural Pest Control: Alternatives to Chemicals for the Home and Garden by Andrew Lopez
The Vegetable Gardener’s Bible, by Edward C. Smith
The Complete Houseplant Survival Manual by Barbara Pleasant