

PRESS RELEASE

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Value of 100 Year-Old Books for Gardening and Food Preservation

What do books on gardening that are 100 years-old offer readers compared to newly published books on gardening? Old books and new books are valuable in their own ways. Here are qualities for appreciating the value that the century-old gardening books have to offer.

1. Books that are one hundred years-old teach a more “do it yourself” approach to gardening. “Back on the farm,” folks had to be more self reliant, less dependent on local farm stores, farm coops, and feed stores.
2. Garden tools were simpler. Easier to repair. No gas powered tools. No gas rotor tiller or well pump.
3. Some tools that we no longer use could be very useful today. We should bring them back, for example, the “wheel hoe.”
4. The old ways were more naturally organic. Old methods of fighting pests were naturally more organic than spraying modern chemicals.
5. Fertilizer was barnyard manure instead of chemicals. It was an art to prepare and apply animal manure.
6. Old folks valued and brewed green manure. What is that? How is it made.
7. Back then, they relied more on hothouses and cold frames. To extend the growing season. How? What are they used for?
8. Old timers possessed a fanatical attachment to heirloom seeds. What are heirloom seeds? Which ones? Why?

9. A century ago folks grew food on window sills in their houses. How much food? How did they do that?
10. Gardening was more of a family effort and a community effort.
11. Growing food back then was a life-or-death proposition. No garden in the summer. No food in the winter.
12. Farms were more isolated. They had to “grow and preserve food.” They couldn’t depend on the grocery store chain or the mini mart to fill their pantries..
13. Learn from the pioneers how to can and dry food.

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[To interview Dan Youra call 360-379-8800]

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