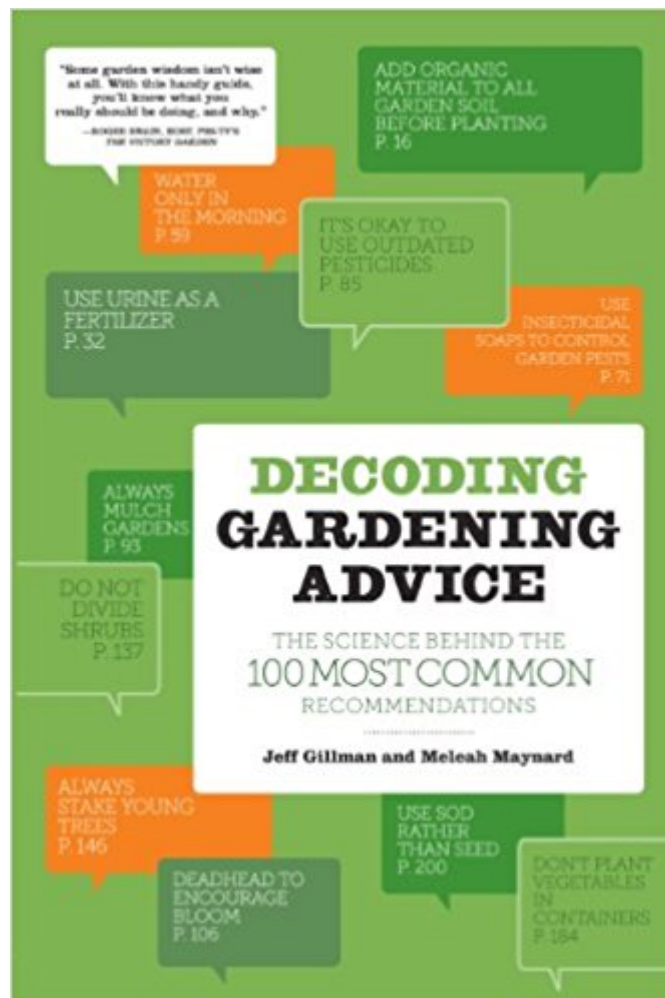




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# Decoding Gardening Advice: The Science Behind The 100 Most Common Recommendations



## Synopsis

Covering more than 100 universal gardening "dos and don'ts," *Decoding Gardening Advice* is the first book to provide gardeners with the real answers. Jeff Gillman, the bestselling author of *The Truth About Garden Remedies*, and Meleah Maynard back up every good recommendation with sound horticultural and botanical science. *Decoding Gardening Advice* is the first and only hard-hitting, evidence-based book that every gardener needs for definitive advice on everything from bulbs, annuals, and perennials to edibles, trees, and soil care.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Anyone who has been in the home-gardening game for any length of time has probably encountered much dubious advice passed on by neighbors, self-styled experts, and even Internet posters. In this concise, well-written guide to separating the scientifically valid tips from the invalid, seasoned horticultural specialists Gillman and Maynard cover a great range of gardening topics, from soil chemistry to watering to lawn care. Each chapter is divided into three sections reviewing "good advice," "advice that's debatable," and "advice that's just wrong." Some examples of good advice include applying pesticides in the morning and keeping shrubs together. The more surprising debatable advice includes cautions about using pricey grow lights for seeding and planting vegetables in rows. In the "just wrong" column, the authors debunk such ideas as the need for gravel in container bottoms for drainage and the necessity of plentiful lawn watering during a hot summer. A well-researched, indispensable resource that belongs on every gardening shelf. --Carl Hays

"A well-researched, indispensable resource that belongs on every gardening shelf."  
 •Booklist "Gillman and Maynard's fun-to-read, entertaining guide to the scientific reasons behind each practice makes this a valuable guide for gardeners."  
 •Publishers Weekly "Helpful for novice and experienced gardeners alike, the practical advice here is backed up with interesting popular science and delivered in an engaging format."  
 •Library Journal "If you've ever questioned a commonly repeated gardening tip and considered submitting it to *Mythbusters* for analysis, don't bother. Just buy this book."  
 •Dallas Morning News "This easy-to-read paperback is kind of like a *Consumer Reports* rundown on garden tips."  
 •Harrisburg Patriot-News "Looks at more than 100 of the so called dos and don'ts of gardening, and backs up their recommendations with hands-on research."  
 •Halifax Chronicle Herald "Gillman's and Maynard's responses show that the authors have done the research and also have personal garden experience."  
 •Heartland Gardening "A handy reference for gardeners to be familiar with."  
 •Juneau Empire "Bogus information spreads like wildfire, especially with the advent of the internet. This handy book gives you the straight scoop on what's good, what's bad and what's iffy in the world of gardening."  
 •East Oregonian "A fascinating, entertaining, and useful book, written in a format that makes for quick reference."  
 •Milwaukee Journal Sentinel "Filled with simplified explanations based on current science, this slim, precisely organized handbook is good for a cover to cover read or as a handy reference guide to dip into as needed."  
 •San Francisco Chronicle "This is a nuts-and-bolts book full of practical advice."  
 •Winston-Salem Journal

With so much conflicting gardening advice out there it is difficult to know what to believe. As a Master Gardener, I have been trained to look for scientific proof, not just hearsay. The trouble is, sometimes the scientific proof is outdated and often hearsay is all I can find. This book answered many of my questions in an entertaining and easy to understand manner. In fact, I picked up the book for what I expected to be an hour but didn't put it down until it was finished. As the cover states, it discusses 100 of the most common recommendations. The book is very well organized by topic (soil, water, etc.) and within the topic by good advice, advice that's debatable, and advice that's just wrong. There is also a great index in the back, making it easy to look up whatever question I need

answered. I especially liked the "Debatable" sections as it gives both sides of issues that may have more than one correct answer. For example, a very intelligent and skilled gardening friend told me that it was important to change the potting mix in my pots each year. I started putting the old mix in the bottom of my pots but used fresh mix in the top half. This book explains the pros and cons of reusing mix and when it is not advisable. I also make my own deer repellent spray and was surprised to read when that may not be the best idea (read the book to find out why!). I didn't expect to learn nearly as much from this book as I did. I know I will frequently refer to it and will keep it by my side when staffing our "Ask A Master Gardener" booth as it really does answer questions we are repeatedly asked. The information is presented in non-technical terms and is great for all gardening levels. I will be buying more copies to give as gifts as it is the perfect way to share important money- and earth-saving information that I have been harping on (Quit throwing so much fertilizer everywhere! Add compost!) in a non-preachy way. I know it has already made me a better and more confident gardener. Very highly recommended.

A GREAT book! Each advisory has clear explanations why it does (or does not) work, and covers most of the situations a gardener might encounter. It is also a great companion text to accompany his other two works.

Not all garden advice is good: gardening advice is full of pseudo science. This book addresses the issue. This book is well organized, so in my case I was skipping through the book instead of reading it straight through. It is divided into chapters that include soils, water, pests, mulch, flowers, trees, vegetables and fruit, and lawn. It is presented simply, sorting advice in each chapter into good advice, advice that's debatable, and advice that's just wrong. In a glance you can quickly tell the value of a certain piece of advice, and then go on to read the details. I did wish they would cite specific studies and articles to back up their stance on everything, but that would also make it not as user friendly and is probably not of interest to most people. (An appendix would be nice.)

This has so much worthwhile advice in it. Very well organized and easy to understand. You can't go wrong with this in your library.

This is a great reference. As such, it would be more useful as a searchable E-book. Download the Kindle version instead of the hard copy (save some money) and you can search and also cut and paste sections to share with other gardeners. The font is way too small. I borrowed reading glasses

and still could barely read the text. One more reason to purchase the E-version.

Must have for all home gardeners

every gardener should have one

Lots of excellent ideas on natural gardening not only for flowers but also for trees, grasses, etc.

Gives balanced view of using organics as well as commercial products.

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