

# Locavore Spiritual Growth Group

February 10, 2013

## WHAT SOIL IS BEST?

THE VERY BEST OF SOILS is black earth of tender nature, the most easily worked and the best for cereals.

In a tender soil we find fertility combined with moderation, a softness and a pliancy easily adapted to cultivation, and an equal absence of humidity and of dryness. Earth of this nature will shine again after the ploughshare has passed through it, and when newly turned up attracts ravenous birds that follow the ploughshare, the ravens going so far as to peck at the heels of the ploughman.

*Natural History*

PLINY THE ELDER

23-79 A.D.

***"The earth is given as a  
common stock for man to labor  
and live on. The small  
landowners are the most  
precious part of a state."***

**Thomas Jefferson on farming and farmers •**

***"When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization."***

**Daniel Webster on farming and farmers •**

***"A good farmer is nothing more nor less than a handy man with a sense of humor."***

**Elwyn Brooks White on farming and farmers**

-----

**Quotations from <http://quotationsbook.com>**



In the beginning.....



# Organic Gardening and Farming

March, 1964  
50 Cents



*March, 1964*  
*50 Cents*

A 5 65 N 14 04064 A  
J H RENLER  
RT 1  
ROSEDALE IND



# March 1964



A practical gardener, John Krill uses whatever organic materials are available for mulches and composting. He saves valuable space and works for top results by practicing companion planting.

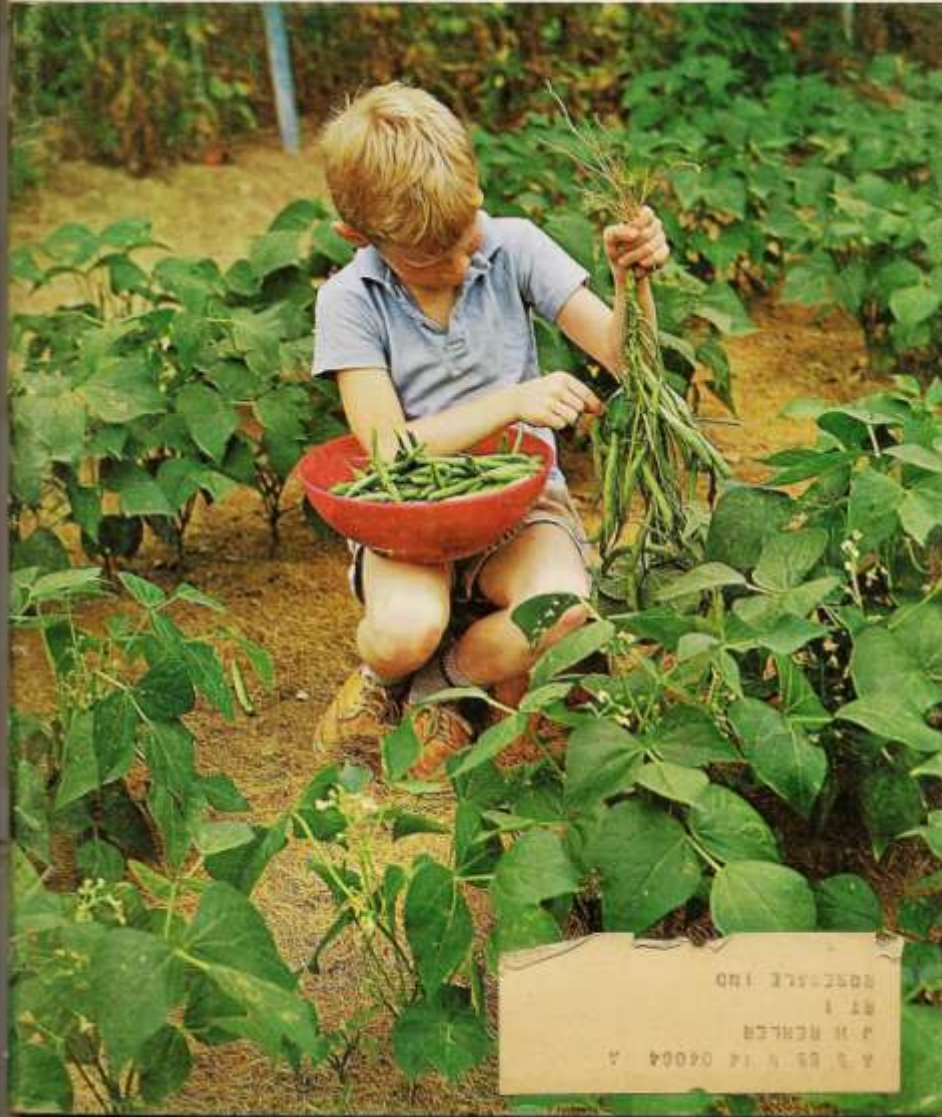
## Which Mulches Are Best — and Why

An experienced gardener reviews the materials that perform best as mulch — and reveals how they do it.

JOHN KRILL

# Organic Gardening and Farming

May, 1965  
50 Cents



POSTAGE AND  
FEE  
PAID  
AT  
NEW YORK, N.Y.  
PERMIT NO. 1000  
NEW YORK, N.Y.



# Organic Gardening and Farming

U.S. Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

Better Gardening and Farming . . . naturally

Volume 12, No. 5

May, 1965

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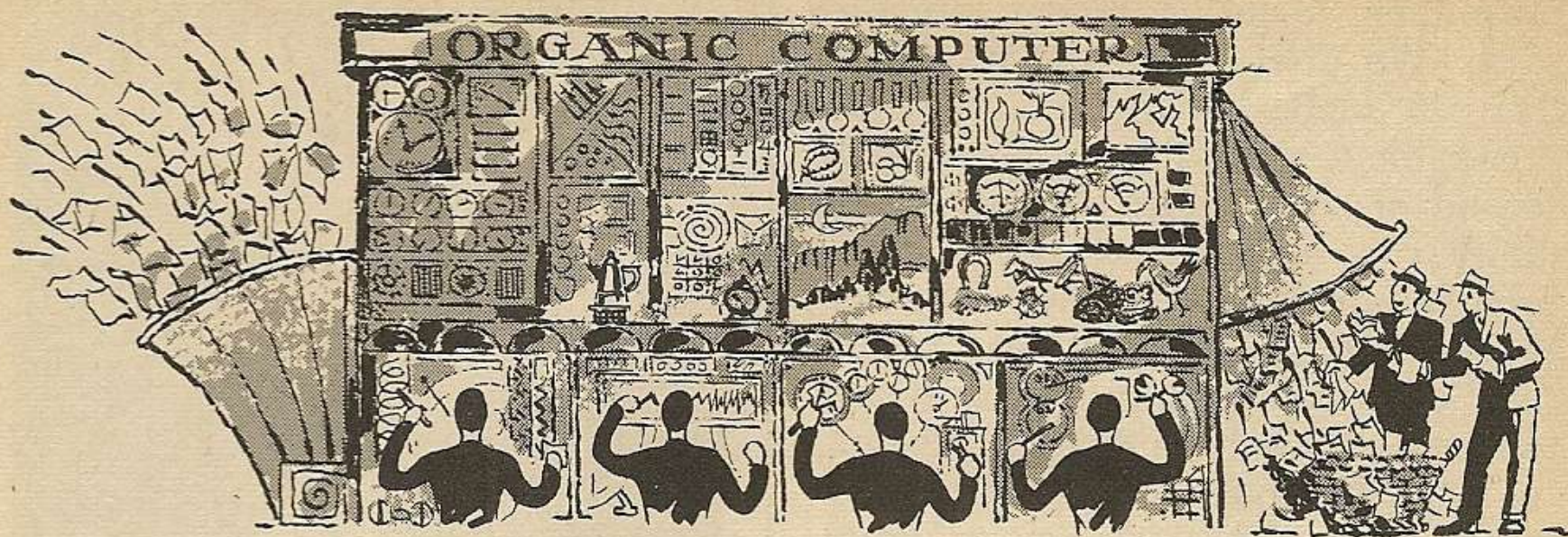
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Mr. Computer: Would My Roses  
Bloom If . . . ?      **58**      *Jerome Olds*





Mr. Computer:

Would My Roses Bloom If . . . ?

A look into the future when the Big C may become a major source of gardening advice.



But the future holds hope for vast improvement. In not too many years, we may be able to get straight sure-fire garden answers from a source whose closest contact with plants may be the artificial potted greenery near his "GO" button. Yes, our fountain-head of gardening know-how may turn out to be Mr. Computer himself.

Already doctors, lawyers and other professions are taking the necessary steps to use the computer's magnetic tape to store all types of interesting information in compact, miniaturized form. Writes one reporter: "Just as in



# Can you say “Google”...

than you were originally. Next, you've got to learn to limit or “negotiate” your question. For example, if your roses haven't been blooming like the ads say they can, and you ask: “Mr. Computer, Why don't my roses bloom?” it might take 7 days of machine time for the typing to be done. But if you'd

# Organic Gardening-May 1965

## What Is Good Gardening Soil?

For the last 2,000 years healthy, productive soil has been described as “tender,” “sympathetic,” and “mellow,” in which “fertility is combined with moderation.” The best way to achieve it is to garden the organic way.



1966-1977  
Let's try it out.



1966

Sum 66

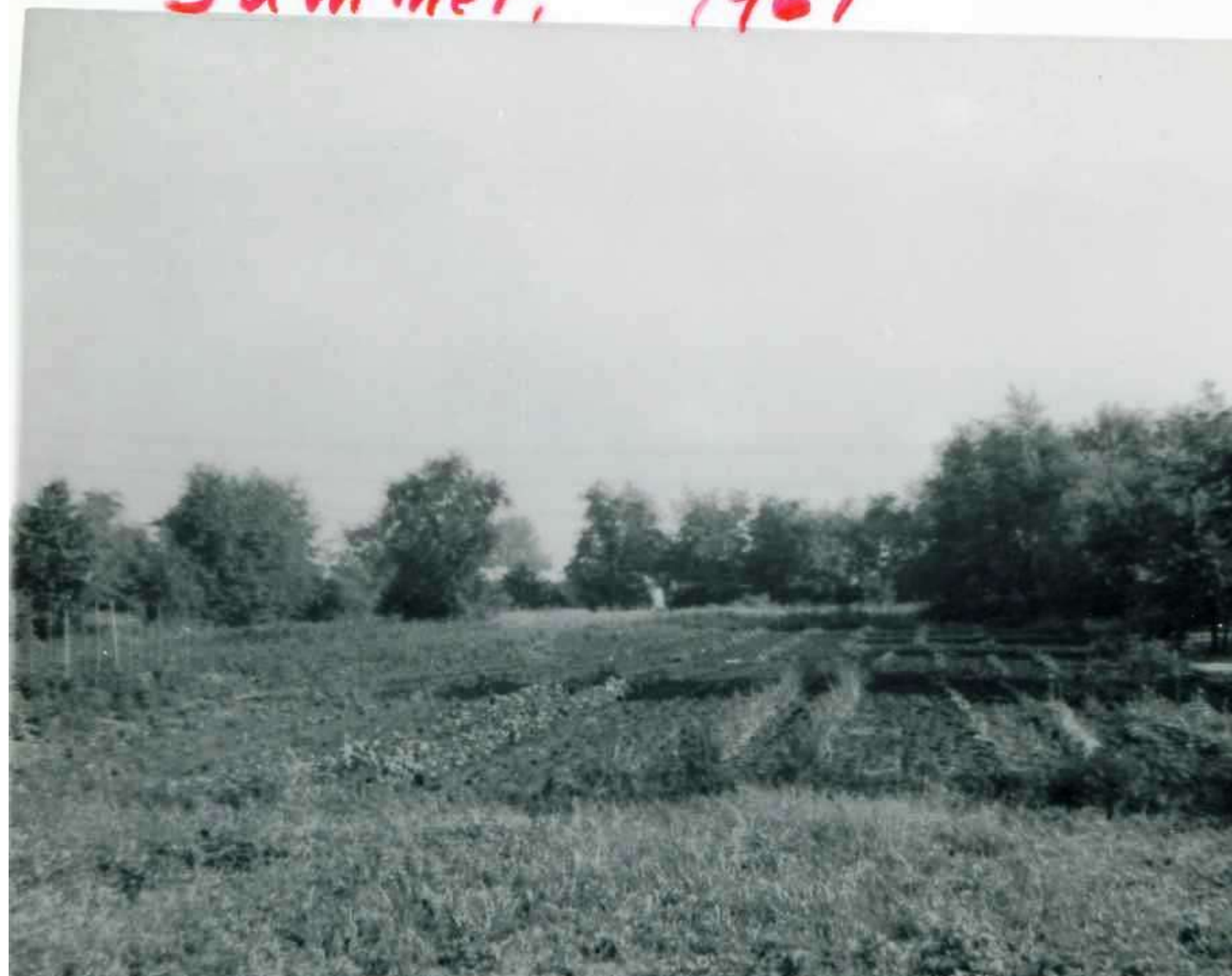


1967



•  
•  
67  
•  
JUN  
•

Summer, 1967





May 1968



June 1968





# Late Summer 1968





1969

Summer 1969



Summer 1971



100 • OCT • 71



1972

Sept. 1972



# DAVIS HOT~HOUSE CUCUMBERS

FOR SALE HERE

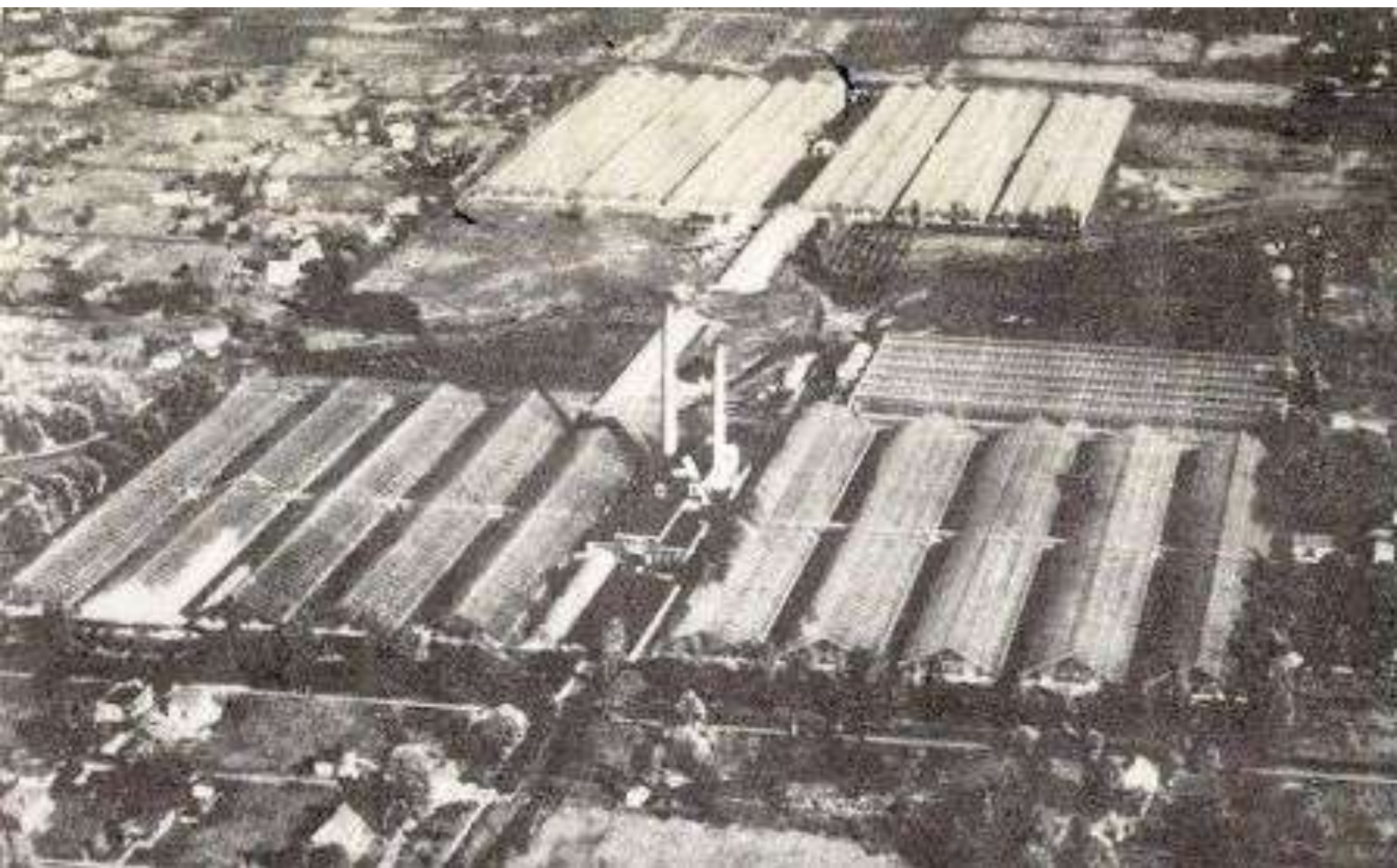


INSIST UPON

EACH

*Davis* HotHouse  
CUCUMBERS





# 1975

John – not afraid  
of heights.











1977





# Advertised in Mother Earth News and Organic Gardening

**USED GREENHOUSE PARTS**

16" X 18" glass—\$12 per 100 sq. ft.  
24" X 26" glass—\$20 per 100 sq. ft.  
18 ft. CYPRESS RAFTERS—\$2 A PIECE  
6-1/2 ft. CYPRESS WALL BARS—75¢

**T.H. GREENHOUSE CO.**  
**3512 BROADLANDS RD.**  
**TERRE HAUTE, IND. 47805**  
PHONE EVENINGS:  
812-466-9785 or 812-466-1442

Recycle and save. Used cypress, steel, and glass for any size greenhouse or solar collector. Parts to make an 8'8" X 16'9" greenhouse, only \$185. You pick up or pool orders with friends. Same size lean-to, ~~\$140~~. All parts and glass sold separately. See ad elsewhere in this issue. Use your own design and save even more. John Bush or Carol Reisner, 3512 Broadlands Road, Terre Haute, Indiana 47805. Phone evenings: (812) 466-9785 or (812) 466-1442.







# Mother Earth News-Sept 1976

## A SMALL WORD ABOUT INFLATION

There's a lot of political and economic talk making the rounds these days about how we've "whipped" inflation. Don't you believe it. According to International Reports, Inc., 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003, the current annual rate of inflation in the United States is running at 6.2%.

This means that if you hide a dollar in the cookie jar today . . . and then dig it out *just five years from now* . . . that dollar will buy less than three-quarters (only 72.4%) of what it can purchase right now. Or, to turn it around the other way, you'll have to invest that dollar in something which—*after all taxes and handling fees*—will guarantee you 6.2% interest (compounded annually) just to keep its purchasing power from shrinking.

Inflation, in short, is a *long* way from being "whipped", and it is a mark of extreme economic naiveté (on both his part and on ours) when a major U.S. presidential candidate—Jimmy Carter—can say without challenge that he intends to concentrate on jobs and "let inflation take care of itself". Gerald Ford may bump his head a lot (and we'd certainly never endorse him, or anyone else, for President), but he at least has sense enough to leave his administration's economic policy in the hands of men (Burns, Simon, Greenspan) who understand that inflation is, indeed, Economic Public Enemy Number One to any stable society.

So what are we gonna do? If the guys already in office know *how* to hold the line but *can't* . . . and the guys trying to get in office don't even *know* how to hold the line . . . what are we gonna do?

STOP EXPECTING POLITICIANS TO COME UP WITH MAGIC ANSWERS. That's one thing we can do. After all, you wouldn't set a fox to guard your chickens, would you? Then why let the guys who got us into all this economic trouble have chance after chance after chance at getting us out (especially when they just keep on making everything worse)?

Quit playing by "their" rules. Cut your dependence on what "they" think is a fair rate of inflation . . . a fair return on your investment . . . a fair rate of payment (minimum wage) for your work . . . a fair rate of taxation.

No, you won't be able to sever all your economic ties to The System overnight . . . or, probably, ever. But you can certainly take a lot more of your life into your own hands during the next few months (no matter what your current economic status might be) than most folks ever do these days.

Buy a farm. And if you can't do that, build a greenhouse onto your home. And if you live in an apartment, install a "grow box" in a window. Learn to sprout seeds and use them in tasty recipes. Put a henhouse in the backyard. Nail together some rabbit pens in the garage. One way or another, make yourself more food self-sufficient.

Put up a windplant. Install a solar heater. Learn to use a fireless cooker. Insulate your house better. Drive less. Use a car pool. Take a bath with a friend. One way or another, make yourself more energy self-sufficient.

And, the more food and energy self-sufficient you become, the less inflation will touch you. You can put *that* in the bank no matter who wins the coming election. ●

# economic outlook

# Advice on become more self-sufficient

...not more of your life into your own hands during the next 12 months (no matter what your current economic status might be) than most folks ever do these days.

Buy a farm. And if you can't do that, build a greenhouse onto your home. And if you live in an apartment, install a "grow box" in a window. Learn to sprout seeds and use them in tasty recipes. Put a henhouse in the backyard. Nail together some rabbit pens in the garage. One way or another, make yourself more food self-sufficient.

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1977





Sun. July 3, 1977

Bought farm  
but had to add  
living space  
before moving  
Judy moved to  
Terre Haute  
North as Dean  
of Students



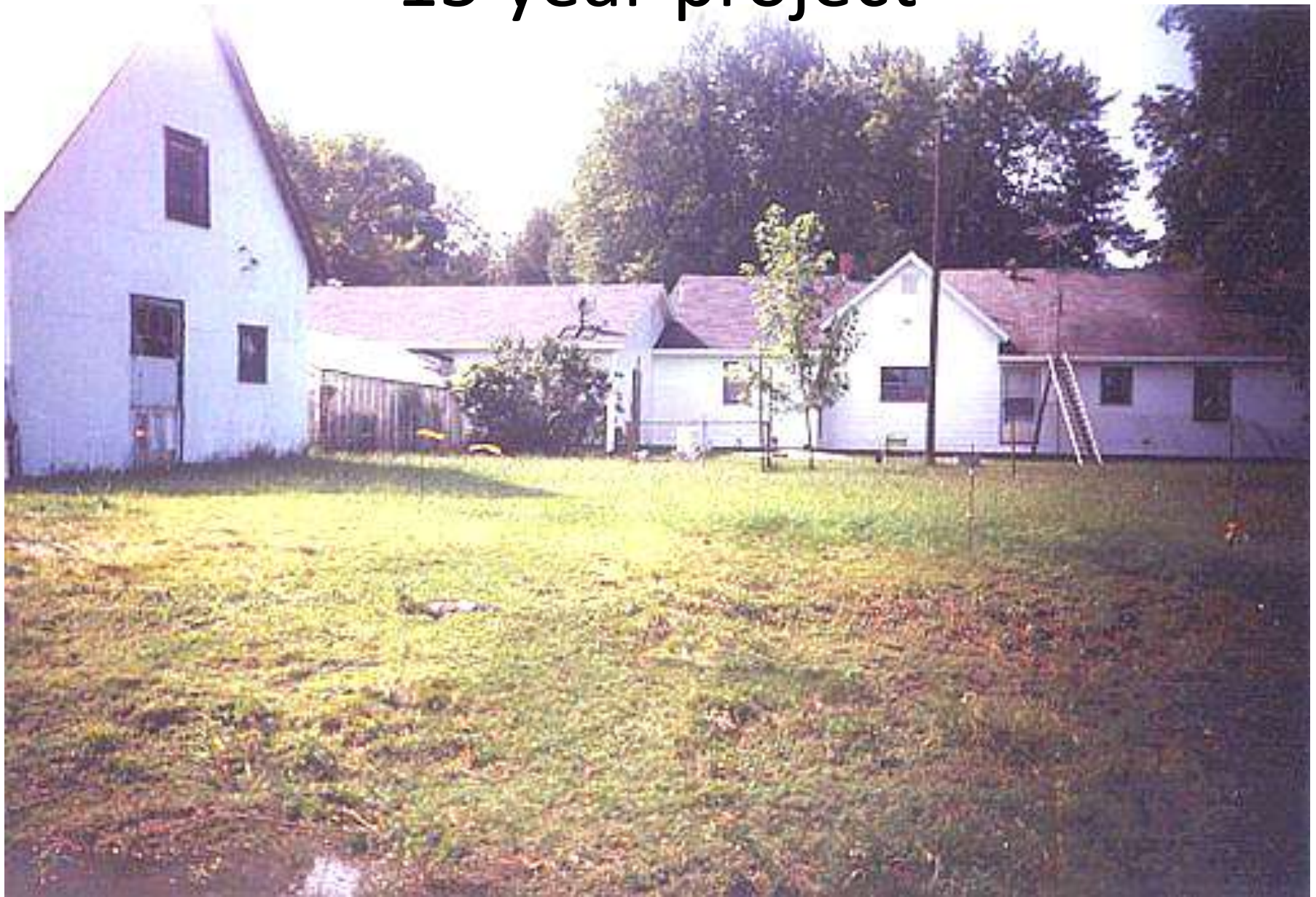
**Roof built for  
solar collector**







# 15 year project























# 1977-1999

## CHOP WOOD CARRY WATER

A Guide to Finding Spiritual Fulfillment in Everyday Life

RICK FIELDS, WITH PEGGY TAYLOR, REX WEYLER, AND RICK INGRASCI

Editors of NEW AGE JOURNAL

CARRY HAY  
FEED THE COWS  
FIX THE FENCE  
REMODEL THE HOUSE  
PLANT SOME GARDEN





Attica house  
2001-2011









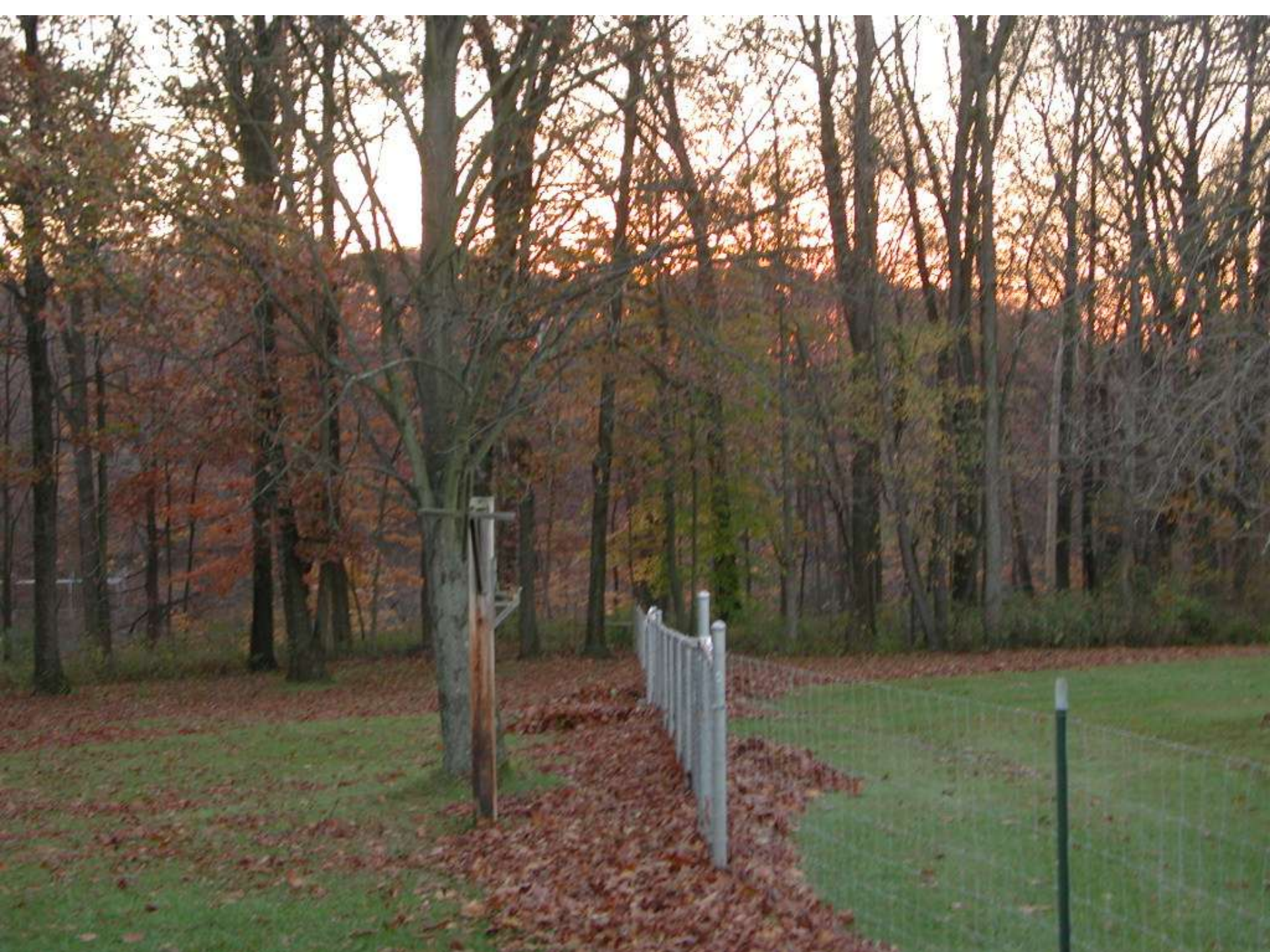














Lot of trees













October 2004





December 16, 2004













April 10, 2005





# June





# April





# June





July





November 28, 2006





November 28, 2006





May 25, 2009 (Attica)





June 24, 2009 (Attica)





July 12, 2009 (Attica)





# From Attica





# 2007

- **The challenge of Martin Hollow**
- **Pasture for several decades**
- **No access to good manure**
- **No trees for leaves**
- **Grass hay**
- **Large area for green grass mulch**

























# Testing For Healthy Soil

[www.drgoodearth.com](http://www.drgoodearth.com)

P.O. Box 50084, St. Louis, MO 63105

Phone: 314-994-2167 Fax: 314-994-2167

**Gardener:** John Bush

3560 N Xavier Rd

Attica, IN 47918

765-762-6299

**Dealer**

EarthCo

P.O. Box 50084

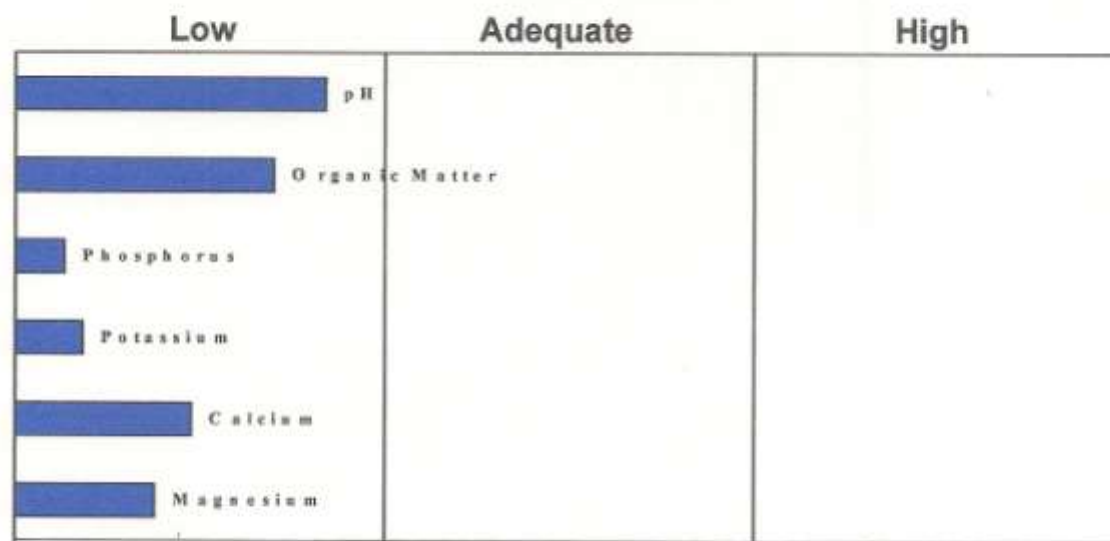
St. Louis, MO 63105

**Report Date:** November 25, 2009

**Lab #** 27736-3

**Crops:** Vegetables

**Sample ID:** Box 3



## Test

## Test Value

## Recommendation

pH

5.3

Apply 5 lbs Lime/100 sq ft

Organic Matter

1.4%

Add 2" compost/peat moss & incorporate

Phosphorus

0.3 lbs/1000 sq ft

Apply 1/4 lb/100 sq ft

Potassium

1.4 lbs/1000 sq ft

Apply 1/4 lb/100 sq ft

Calcium

23.5 lbs/1000 sq ft

Apply 9 lbs gypsum/100 sq ft-See Comments

CEC = 4.9

Magnesium

1.9 lbs/1000 sq ft

Apply 1/4 lb/100 sq ft



# Inside the deer fence-2009









Hay for mulch-because we have it















MARTIN HOLLOW  
FARM  
SUSTAINABLY GROWN  
ALL NATURAL NO BAD STUFF!  
SALAD GREENS  
\* ARUGULA  
RAPPINI  
SPICY MIX  
LETTUCE  
ARUGULA  
MUSTARD  
MIX AND  
ENDIVE





Green Beans

Next Week

Some HONEY SYRUP FACTS...



# CSA Weekly share





# So how does he do it?

- **Organic fertilizer applied at planting**
- **Mulch for weed control and holding moisture. Also uses cover crops**
- **Foliar feeding with fish emulsion**
- **Irrigate when necessary-like in 2012**



- **So, do you need me to tell you how to build some great garden soil?**
- **With the poor soil we now have, I also need help.**



# May 1965 Organic Gardening

But the future holds hope for vast improvement. In not too many years, we may be able to get straight sure-fire garden answers from a source whose closest contact with plants may be the artificial potted greenery near his "GO" button. Yes, our fountain-head of gardening know-how may turn out to be Mr. Computer himself.



# 2,810,000 results in (0.23) seconds

building healthy soil - Google Search - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Back Forward <https://www.google.com/search?q=building+healthy+soil&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a> ☆

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building healthy soil - Google Search +

+You Search Images Maps Play YouTube News Gmail Drive Calendar More ▾

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Web Images Maps Shopping More ▾ Search tools

About 2,810,000 results (0.23 seconds)

[Building Healthy Soil - Gardener's Supply Company](http://www.gardeners.com/Building-Healthy-Soil/5060,default.pg.html)  
[www.gardeners.com/Building-Healthy-Soil/5060,default.pg.html](http://www.gardeners.com/Building-Healthy-Soil/5060,default.pg.html)  
Though some gardeners may be blessed with perfect **soil**, most of us garden in **soil** that is less than perfect. If your **soil** has too much clay in it, is too sandy, too ...

[Building Healthy Soil - Home - Virginia Cooperative Extension](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-711/426-711.html)  
[pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-711/426-711.html](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-711/426-711.html)  
May 1, 2009 – Table of Contents. **Building Healthy Soil**. Improve the Soil Structure. Test Your Soil. Add Organic Matter. Grow Cover Crops and Green Manures ...



# Good example to discuss

- New garden in 2012
- It was the yard
- We mulched
- We irrigated
- We **DID NOT** apply any amendments and little fertilizer.

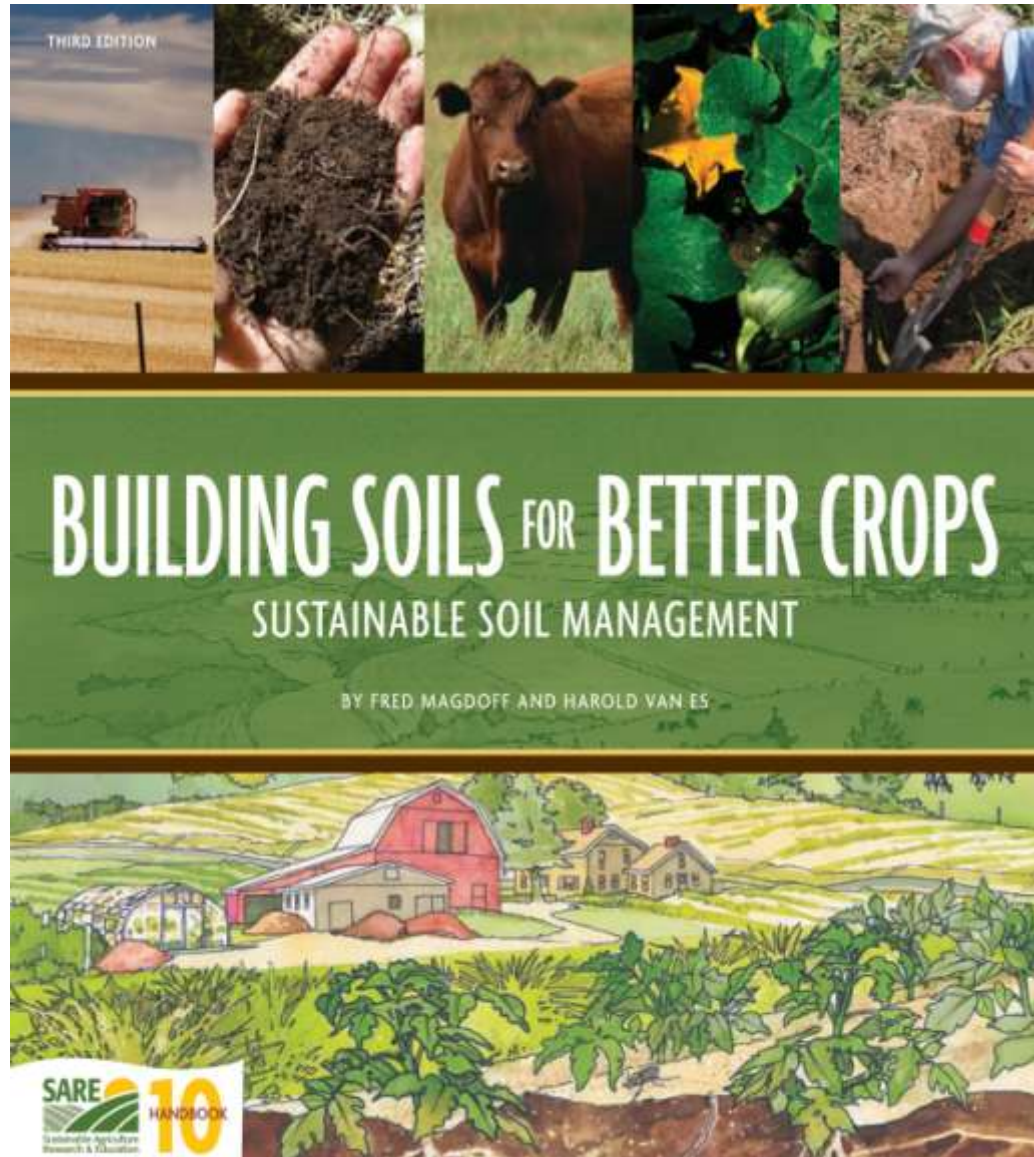


Had been a pasture and yard forever





# Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education





# Building Soils For Better Crops

- Sustainable Soil Management
- <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center>
- 
- third edition
- by Fred Magdoff and Harold van Es
- Handbook Series Book 10
- 
- **PLANT ROOTS**
- **Healthy plant roots are essential for good crop yields. Roots are clearly influenced by the soil in which they live and are good indicators of soil quality. If the soil is compact, is low in nutrients or water, includes high populations of root pathogens, or has other problems, plants will not grow well.**
- 
-



## Next steps...

- **Use organic fertilizer**
- **Apply necessary minerals**
- **Use more mulch. Which one?**
- **(Another discussion for another day)**
- **Repeat year after year until done.**



# April 1983

## Worms Make Compost Easy

*With a handful of earthworms and a 2-foot square box, you can compost kitchen scraps indoors or out, all through the year.*

WARREN SCHULTZ JR.

**M**ARY APPEL-HOF'S compost system may be the easiest ever devised. She doesn't need a large cage or elaborate bin. Neither turning nor watering, nor extra manure is required. Animals don't invade her pile. Neighbors don't object. In fact, she doesn't have to take the garbage out at all. Mary makes compost indoors, all year.

Mary leaves the work to her lit-







Each casting pellet is in the shape of a tiny cylinder. This shape resists compaction and helps to keep the soil loose. This helps the oxygen to permeate down to the roots zone where it is needed. Drainage is improved due to the lack of soil compaction.

#### ***Improved Microbial and Bacterial Activity:***

The soil being loose is free to accept nitrogen fixing bacteria which promotes optimum root growing environment.

#### ***Auxins and Cytokinins:***

These are like steroids for your plants roots. Healthy roots will make healthy plants.

#### ***Nutrients:***

Trace elements, Microbial Activity, and nitrogen fixing bacteria are all what makes this product out perform other fertilizers.

*Your Satisfaction is  
Guaranteed  
or your money back!*





# Organic Gardener's Composting

## by Steve Solomon

- Grass clippings:
- Along with kitchen garbage, grass clippings are the compostable material most available to the average homeowner..
- Grass clippings, especially spring grass, are very high in nitrogen, similar to the best horse or cow manure.

From the ending of the May 1965 article,  
**“What is good garden soil?”**

### **It’s Up to the Gardener**

From this necessarily brief discussion it is evident that there is no one “best” soil, but there are a variety of soils each of which will produce well for you—depending on where you live and what you grow.

But is equally self-evident that the organic way of gardening is the best—the only way to garden.