



## Five of the Best Tips from Garden Bloggers

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Kitchen gardeners are more fortunate today than earlier generations. The Internet has provided a wealth of information and resources that our parents and grandparents could only imagine.

Not only do we have this wonderful Kitchen Gardeners website to help us exchange ideas and learn from other gardeners, but we also can browse an endless number of edible gardening blogs that offer great ideas every day. Google almost any gardening issue and you'll get numerous suggestions on how to resolve your problems.

Of course, some edible gardening blogs provide better tips than others. With this in mind, I've created a list of five very helpful and interesting articles from the gardening blogosphere. Here's my list:

1. [What to do with sprouting potatoes](#) [1]. One of the most useful tips that I've learned from garden bloggers is to "chit" potatoes before planting them. In this article, Barbara Pleasant from GrowBlog encourages kitchen gardeners to put seed potatoes in a dry, sunny room to encourage them to sprout and green-up before planting. By doing this, it deters voles and other critters from eating them once planted. It also makes it easier to plant the eyes face up and may even start your potato plants growing sooner.
2. [Salvaged apples, hard cider](#) [2]. Once while visiting a Christmas tree farm in late November, I took a bite from a ripe heirloom apple from an old neglected apple tree. I was amazed at how great the apple tasted. This got me to thinking about all the neglected apple trees there are around town and would it be possible to make cider or vinegar from these free apples. David's post on Kitchen Gardeners is an interesting article that explores this opportunity.
3. [Tips on purchasing truckloads of soil or compost](#) [3]. Even though I've been pretty careful over the years, I bought my share of bad loam. Amy Manning's article on My Suburban Homestead gives us a couple of pointers on how to spot bad soil or compost.
4. [Worm harvesting](#) [4]. For those into worm composting or vermiculture, one of the most challenging tasks

is to separate the worms from the rich worm compost so you can use it in your garden without losing your worms. Liz at Big Tex Worms shows us several easy ways to do this in her video blog post.

5. [Fighting weeds in the vegetable garden](#) [5]. Every gardener must deal with weeds at some point. This comprehensive post by Tee Riddle at Veggie Gardener takes us through several strategies for efficiently reducing weeds in your garden. He covers everything from preparing the soil properly before planting to mulching to container gardening.

As a bonus, I'm going to include one more article from my blog that will appeal to kitchen gardeners who live where the early spring is too cold to grow warm weather vegetables. The article [Better tomatoes with Walls-O-Water](#) [6] suggests that you can use Walls-O-Water in combination with a hoop house to transplant tomatoes and other warm weather plants outside when it normally would be too cold. This idea for using a double layer of insulation originally comes from Eliot Coleman's idea in [Four-season Harvest](#) [7] of using row covers inside a hoop house to extend the season for cold weather crops.

You probably have read a blog post that provided a great idea or two. Let the rest of the kitchen gardeners know about this blog article by commenting in the section below.

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- [1] <http://www.growveg.com/growblogpost.aspx?id=180>
- [2] <http://kitchengardeners.org/blogs/david-buchanan/salvaged-apples-hard-cider>
- [3] <http://www.mysuburbanhomestead.com/tips-purchasing-truckloads-soil-compost/>
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