

# Internet Resources for Gardeners

There are many gardening resources available about all types of plants you might be interested in and how to take care of them. To get the specific information you want you could ask a fellow gardener, or the staff at a nursery, call the local agricultural extension office, or look in a gardening book. It might be time-consuming to find what you need to know. But these days you have the internet with a world of information sources at your fingertips. The purpose of this article is to introduce you several ways you could use the internet to save time and get what you need more directly.

If you have a specific question, such as “When and how to prune climbing roses?”, merely type in “prune climbing roses” or “how to prune climbing roses” into the web browser. The browser will conduct a search and you will be rewarded with several articles about how, when, and why to prune climbing roses. Choose the one that is specific for your area of the country.

Another way to use the internet is to access a specific web site. Use this method when wanting to know a range of information. You might want to know the best plants to use for summer blooms or how to prepare a new flower bed or how to install a drip irrigation system. There are even websites that can help you develop your landscape plan. Many of the web sites have links to other websites that can be educational and informative -- and sometimes just plain fun to follow to see what they reveal.

Listed below are several websites that are useful for both the beginning and the more experienced gardener.

[aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu) This is the website for Texas A&M horticulture. It is a little more difficult to navigate because there is so much available on it. Get started by looking at the Maroon bar towards the top of the page and select Earth-Kind for general growing principles or Fruit & Nut for a list of different fruits and nuts in the state and how to grow them.

[texassuperstar.com](http://texassuperstar.com) This is a website for AgriLife Research and Extension. It lists all superstar plants that have been tested extensively and proven to be outstanding performers in a Texas landscape. The site shows pictures and lists the Superstar Plants by category: Annuals, Perennials, Woody Shrubs, Trees, and Speciality Plants. Tap on the specific plant, and pictures and even more information comes up. This is a great site for choosing plants

[txsmartscape.com](http://txsmartscape.com) Many other sites are linked to this site, but it also stands on its own. There is a form on the opening page that lets you search for any plant that you might want in your landscape. It includes selected plants by region, plant type, light requirement, ornamental color, wildlife value, blooming, and deciduous or evergreen. These categories are valuable when trying to select a plant to meet the specific criteria of a landscape. The site also has Design Tools to help the gardener make a plan for their landscape that incorporates what works well for the gardener as well as the environment.

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bhg.com This is the Better Homes and Garden web site. When the site opens, click on Gardening. Besides general information it includes links to specific topics and lots of good ideas.

wildflower.org This is the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center site and includes the database for the native plants in Texas. It also includes "how to" articles and "step by step" guides. It has a question and answer site called "ask mr. smarty pants".

Enjoy browsing the web. You can get a quick answer to a question or spend a few hours pursuing your garden dream.

*The Master Gardeners of Palo Pinto County will have a Fall Workshop on Saturday, September 12 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Extension Office in Palo Pinto. Join us for information on pruning, composting, fall gardening tips, taking care of Irises and much more. This is a hands on workshop so come join the fun. Call the Ag Extension office for more information. 940.659.1228.*