



Gardening Misinformation – Further Sources

Resources on Misinformation

Misinformation and Disinformation, American Psychological Association:
<https://www.apa.org/topics/journalism-facts/misinformation-disinformation>.

Identifying Misinformation and Pseudoscience, Brown University Health (Slide 12, “Red Flags”):
<https://www.brownhealth.org/be-well/how-identify-nutrition-misinformation-and-pseudoscience>.

Misinformation, Disinformation, and Propaganda Media Literacy, Cornell University Library LibGuides:
https://guides.library.cornell.edu/evaluate_news/media_literate.

Evaluating Information with the CRAAP Test, Meriam Library of California State University:
<https://library.csuchico.edu/sites/default/files/craap-test.pdf>.

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MYTHS:

Plants as Personal Pest Repellent

Summertime Personal Pest Control, Cornell Cooperative Extension Westchester:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/72425/Summertime_Pest_Control_CCE_2024.pdf?1744120840

Debunking Garden Myths, Cornell Cooperative Extension Westchester:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/66406/Debunking_Garden_Myths_CCE_2023.pdf?1709326970

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Companion Planting

The Myth of Companion Planting, Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State University Extension:
<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/companion-plantings.pdf>.

Companion Planting in the Vegetable Garden, UMass Extension:
<https://ag.umass.edu/home-lawn-garden/fact-sheets/companion-planting-in-vegetable-garden>.

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Fertilizer

Fertilizing Trees and Shrubs, Cornell Cooperative Extension Westchester:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/72427/Fertilizing_Trees_and_Shrubs_CCE_2025.pdf?1744120929

Environmental Implications of Excess Fertilizer on Water Quality, North Dakota State University Extension:
<https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/publications/environmental-implications-excess-fertilizer-and-manure-water-quality>

Soil Amendments

The Myth of Gypsum Magic, Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State University Extension:
<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/gypsum.pdf>

Exploring Organic Mulches, Washington State University Extension:
<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/wood-chips.pdf>

Pine Needle Mulch and Soil pH, University of New Hampshire Extension:
<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2019/10/do-pine-trees-pine-needles-make-soil-more-acidic>.

Soil Management in Home Gardens and Landscapes, Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/soil-management-in-home-gardens-and-landscapes>.

Organic Matter and Soil Amendments, University of Maryland Extension: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/organic-matter-and-soil-amendments>.

Too Much Organic Matter, Oregon State University: <https://news.oregonstate.edu/news/study-shows-some-urban-gardens-contain-too-much-organic-matter>

Organic Labeling

Natural and Organic Label Claims, Michigan State University Extension: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/natural-and-organic-label-claims>.

What Do Labels Really Mean?, University of Connecticut Extension: <https://publications.extension.uconn.edu/2019/12/09/what-do-labels-really-mean-organic-natural-cage-free/>

Consumer Reports Guide to Food Labels, Consumer Reports: <https://www.consumerreports.org/food-labels/seals-and-claims>

Food Labeling Overview, University of California Davis Department of Food Science and Technology: <https://ucfoodsafety.ucdavis.edu/processing-distribution/regulations-processing-food/food-labeling>

GMOs

GMOs 101: Getting Down to Basics, Michigan State University AgBioResearch: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/gmos-101-getting-down-to-basics>.

Science of GMOs, University of Connecticut College of Ag, Health, and Natural Resources: <https://gmo.uconn.edu/>.

What Do You Know About Bioengineered Crops?, University of California Davis Biotechnology: <https://biotech.ucdavis.edu/blog/what-do-you-know-about-bioengineered-crops-aka-gmos>

Native Plant Superiority

The Myth of Native Plant Superiority, Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State University Extension: <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/native-plants.pdf>.

Some Native Tree Species May Worsen NYC Air, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University Climate School: <https://lamont.columbia.edu/news/planting-some-tree-species-may-worsen-not-improve-nyc-air-says-new-study>

How Native is Native?, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Extension:
<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/garden-scoop/2020-09-05-how-native-native>

Chalker-Scott, Linda. “Nonnative, Noninvasive Woody Species Can Enhance Urban Landscape Biodiversity.” *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry (AUF)* 41, no. 4 (July 1, 2015): 173–86.
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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2011.02.017>.

Tree Myths

Tree Myths and Misconceptions, Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-myths-and-misconceptions>

Tree Wounds and Wood Decay Fungi, University of Kentucky Plant Pathology:
<https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-or-w-01.pdf>

Tree and Shrub Establishment Care, Cornell Cooperative Extension Westchester County:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/63963/Death_of_Newly_Planted_Trees_and_Shubs_CCE_2021.pdf?1697825864

Healthy Roots and Healthy Trees, Colorado State University Extension: <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/healthy-roots-and-healthy-trees-2-926/>

No Mow May

The Truth About No Mow May, Cornell Cooperative Extension Westchester:
[https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/71884/No_Mow_May_CCE_2025_\(1\).pdf?1741117785](https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/71884/No_Mow_May_CCE_2025_(1).pdf?1741117785)

The Messy and Controversial Science Behind No Mow May, North Dakota State University Extension:
<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/dakota-gardener/dakota-gardener-the-messy-and-controversial-science-behind-no-mow-may>.

Documenting Serious Issues in a Bee Paper on ‘No Mow May’, Zach Portman of University of Minnesota Bee Lab: <https://zportman.medium.com/documenting-serious-issues-in-a-bee-paper-on-no-mow-may-dd9b563feac0>.

Lawn Alternatives, University of Maryland Extension: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/lawn-alternatives>.

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More Myth Busting

Horticultural Myths, Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State University Extension: <https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>

Garden Myths Debunked, Oregon State University Extension: <https://news.oregonstate.edu/news/myth-vs-reality-what%E2%80%99s-truth-behind-some-common-gardening-practices>

Debunking Pest Myths, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources: <https://ucanr.edu/blog/pests-urban-landscape/article/debunking-pest-myths>

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