

# Introduction

**Here's a question for you:** What do these five garden-variety problems have in common?



1. Spring has sprung, and your rosebushes are covered with new buds—and Japanese beetles are eating big holes in every single one of them.
2. Doves of deer are devouring your entire vegetable garden—and just about every other plant in your beautiful backyard.
3. You've filled your deck with big pots of beautiful flowers—but the neighborhood cats think the containers are their litter boxes!
4. Your phlox start out as healthy as can be, and then bingo—mildew spores erupt and the plants are wearing white powdery coats from top to bottom.
5. As you were filling your lawn mower, you missed the mark—and now you've got a puddle of petroleum on your gorgeous green grass.

**Are you ready for the super-simple answer?** Here it is:  
You can solve every single one of these problems—and a whole lot more—using products that you'll find on the shelves of your local supermarket. In fact, many of those products are probably sitting in your kitchen cabinets right now. For example, you can use

molasses to feed your plants, fend off fungal diseases, get moles out of your yard, and remove grass stains from your clothes. And that's just for starters!

**This book is jam-packed with tips, tricks, and tonics** that'll help you use dozens of common, everyday products to grow healthier, more beautiful—and in some cases, tastier—plants than you ever thought possible. You'll get the lowdown on:

- Getting your grass off to a great start with corn syrup and Epsom salts
- Growing show-stopping roses with banana peels and tea bags
- Using sugar and aluminum foil to make your tomatoes the sweetest-tasting in town
- Preventing damping-off disease with cinnamon and rubbing alcohol
- Keeping your herbs happy and healthy using ammonia, beer, and corn syrup
- Banishing bad bugs with a garlic, onion, and baby shampoo spray
- Sending rabbits scurrying from your trees and shrubs with buttermilk

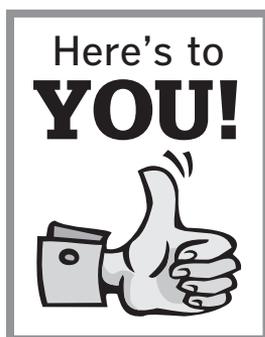
**But wait—that's not all!** You'll also find fantastic features like *Do Tell!*, which contains the fascinating and little-known stories behind some of our biggest supermarket superstars.

(With these tidbits at your beck and call, you'll win any trivia contest, hands down!) Here's a couple of fab-



ulous factoids to whet your appetite: Peanut butter got its start as a source of protein for people who couldn't chew meat, and the Manhattan cocktail was invented by none other than Winston Churchill's mother!

In *Round & Round*, I'll show you hundreds of ways to turn potential trash into treasures ranging from bug traps to bird feeders, fire starters to fishing lures, and pet toys to plant foods. Sneak preview: When you finish the last pickle in a jar, serve the remaining juice to your gardenias. They go gaga for the stuff!



And *Here's to You* includes my fast, fun, and foolproof directions for using everyday products to make your life easier and more fun, both indoors and out. For example, you'll discover how to ease muscle aches with a potato, shine your floor with wax paper, and make a potent, baby-safe insect repellent using vinegar and fresh herbs from the Produce aisle.

Finally, in *Marvelous Mixes*, I'll share tons of my terrific tonics made with ingredients straight from the aisles of your favorite supermarket. I love mixin' and fixin' things, and you will, too.



**So what are we waiting for?** Get ready, get set, and above all else—get growing!