

# Online Extras

**Ten Steps to Gardening with Nature Part II**  
by Dr. Carole Ann Rollins and Dr. Elaine Ingham  
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## The Top 10 Steps to Gardening with Nature

1. Assess your growing system. Know where you are starting from and what gardening products (i.e. chemicals) have been introduced.
2. Check your water source. Know the quality of the water you're using and any contaminants it may contain.
3. Buy environmentally-friendly products that work with nature.
4. Know the health of the flowers, shrubs and trees in your yard.
5. Prepare your soil for new plantings. Achieve a soil composition with a minimum of three to five per cent organic matter, a good set off organisms to allow those organisms to build excellent structure.
6. Know the proper steps to planting new flowers, shrubs and trees, including the proper ratio of compost to soil in your medium mixture.
7. Spray nutrients and microbes on plants properly and consistently.
8. Apply nutrients to the planting medium in the appropriate ratio depending on the health of the soil.
9. Become familiar with the steps to prepare for winter in the fall.
10. Become familiar with the steps to prepare for summer in the spring.

