

Frugal Gardening Tips

With the high cost of living these days, people who have never gardened before are thinking about taking it up. It's a rewarding hobby, but it's really easy to spend a lot of money without realizing it.

Here are some money-saving tips to get you started:

- Start from seed. It takes more effort but saves a LOT of money.
- Save seeds in the fall to plant again the following year.
- Our local library has a seed-sharing program. Check it out.
- Make friends with other gardeners and share seeds and plants.
- Join a gardening club—

their knowledge and their excess plants.

- Borrow gardening magazines and books from the library.
- Make your own compost. You can make a two-bin composter using pallets and zip straps.
- Ask your favourite coffee shop for coffee grounds for your compost.
- Save eggshells and plant seeds in them or crush them and sprinkle them around plants to keep slugs away.
- Soak banana peels in water (they're rich in potassium) and use the water to fertilize indoor or outdoor plants.
- Re-grow your vegetable scraps. Many leafy greens such as celery or green onions

water or are replanted in a pot.

- Grow rhubarb—it's delicious in pies, muffins, cakes or just stewed!
- If your grass isn't treated with chemicals, you can mulch plants with grass clippings to conserve water.
- Make your own weedkillers with vinegar, salt and dishwashing liquid.
- Watch for plant pots at thrift stores and garage sales.
- Estate or moving sales are a great place to find garden tools.
- Purchase items such as gardening gloves or kneeling mats at the dollar store.
- Don't overplant seeds—they

- Don't plant too early. I know, it's tempting to start when the plants begin appearing everywhere, but you may end up planting TWICE if we get a frost.
- Watch for marked-down plants—sometimes all they need is some TLC to make a comeback.
- Plan your garden ahead of time. If you don't, you may end up purchasing more than you need, and that's a waste of money.

"Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get."
H. Jackson Brown

