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Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Revised Edition (Science for Gardeners)

By Wayne Lewis, Jeff Lowenfels



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Healthy soil teems with life—not just earthworms and insects, but a staggering multitude of bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms. Chemical fertilizers injure the microbial life that sustains healthy plants, and the soil becomes increasingly dependent on artificial, often toxic, substances. But there is an alternative: by strengthening the soil food web—the complex world of soil-dwelling organisms—gardeners can create a nurturing environment for plants. *Teaming with Microbes* extols the benefits of cultivating the soil food web. It clearly explains the activities and organisms that make up the web, and explains how gardeners can cultivate the life of the soil through the use of compost, mulches, and compost tea. With Jeff Lowenfels' help, everyone—from devotees of organic gardening techniques to weekend gardeners who simply want to grow healthy, vigorous plants—can create rich, nurturing, living soil.



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Editorial Review

Review

“A breakthrough book. . . . well worth owning and reading. No comprehensive horticultural library should be without it.” —*American Gardener*

“Digs into soil in a most enlightening and entertaining way.” —*Dallas Morning News*

“Required reading for all serious gardeners.” —*Miami Herald*

“The authors have given gardeners an inside scoop on the scientific research supporting organic gardening.” —*Pacific Horticulture*

“This intense little book may well change the way you garden.” —*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

“Exceptional. . . . A brief, clear overview of scientific information with which every gardener should be familiar.” —*Monterey Herald*

“Sure, it’s a gardening book, but it has all the drama and suspense of an extraterrestrial thriller. A cast of characters without eyeballs or backbones. Battle scenes with bizarre creatures devouring one another. Only this book is about as terrestrial as it gets.” —*Anchorage Daily News*

“All good gardeners know healthy plants start with healthy soil. But why? And how? In *Teaming with Microbes* Lowenfels and Lewis reveal the new research in the most practical and accessible way.” —*The Oregonian*

“Read this book and you’ll never think of soil the same way.” —*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

“Sure, it’s a gardening book, but it has all the drama and suspense of an extraterrestrial thriller. . . . Read this book and you’ll never look at soil the same way.” —*B&B Magazine*

“A must read for any gardener looking to create a sustainable, healthy garden without chemicals.” —*Virginian-Pilot*

“It takes readers underground to meet the critters that live if you let them under the garden.” —*Rockland Courier-Gazette*

From the Back Cover

Winner of the Garden Writers Association Gold Award for Best Book Writing

Smart gardeners know that soil is anything but an inert substance. Healthy soil is teeming with life—not just earthworms and insects, but a staggering multitude of bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms. When we

use chemical fertilizers, we injure the microbial life that sustains healthy plants, and thus become increasingly dependent on an arsenal of artificial substances, many of them toxic to humans as well as other forms of life. But there is an alternative to this vicious circle: to garden in a way that strengthens, rather than destroys, the soil food web—the complex world of soil-dwelling organisms whose interactions create a nurturing environment for plants. By eschewing jargon and overly technical language, the authors make the benefits of cultivating the soil food web available to a wide audience, from devotees of organic gardening techniques to weekend gardeners who simply want to grow healthy, vigorous plants without resorting to chemicals.

This revised edition updates the original text and includes two completely new chapters—on mycorrhizae (beneficial associations fungi form with green-leaved plants) and archaea (singled-celled organisms once thought to be allied to bacteria).

About the Author

Wayne Lewis is a lifelong Alaskan gardener. He has worked with Jeff Lowenfels on many projects over the past 25 years, including the now national Plant a Row for the Hungry program, which encourages gardeners to donate a portion of their harvest to charitable organizations in their community.

Jeff Lowenfels is the author of a trilogy of award winning books on plants and soil, and he is the longest running garden columnist in North America. Lowenfels is a national lecturer as well as a fellow, hall of fame member, and former president of the Garden Writers of America.

Users Review

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Anthony Anderson:

This Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Revised Edition (Science for Gardeners) book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This particular Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Revised Edition (Science for Gardeners) without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Revised Edition (Science for Gardeners) can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Revised Edition (Science for Gardeners) having very good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Audrey Spence:

The reserve with title Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Revised Edition (Science for Gardeners) possesses a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This book exist new information the information that exist in this book represented the

condition of the world at this point. That is important to you to learn how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you with new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

Ernestine Biggs:

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Ian Sharpless:

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