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landscape, then experiment with adding shrubs, trees, flowers, decks and other construction ...

Gail Perry • Mar. 22, 2017



For my Apps We Love column in our March magazine, I'm straying away from business-related apps altogether because I can't stop looking at the buds coming out of the ground and the seed catalogs piling up on my desk. Spring can't get here soon enough as far as I'm concerned.

So... with that in mind, for those of you with green thumbs or at least a desire to play in the mud, I've prepared a list of apps to help you plan your garden, embrace

landscaping, identify plants, work the soil, etc.

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Wiley, president of Boomer Consulting said, "I am NOT a gardener, but I love flowers and when we are walking through the flint hills, or when I travel I often find flowers and plants that I wish I knew what they were. So... I found **Garden Answers Plant Identification**. Awesome app!" Take a photo of the plant and app will identify the plant and provide additional information about it. The app also provides information about plant diseases and insect infestations.

According to **Kristy Monahan**, principal at Dynamic Bookkeeping, "**Garden Plan Pro**, (by the geniuses behind www.growveg.com, \$7.99 USD) is my life line during planting season. I love gardening but know very little. This app helps me plan my small raised bed for maximum utilization, tells me what crops do well in my region, when to plant, how to care for them, and when to harvest. I would be lost without it!"

For those of you planning a perennial garden, HGTV recommends **Perennial Match** (it's not free – cost is \$4.99). You can choose plants and then view images of how they will look together, and the app includes a tool that describes compatibility of plants you're considering using in the same garden. There are filters that provide information about sun and water requirements, height, blooming season, hardiness, resistance to deer, invasiveness, and much more.

Recommended by Paste Magazine, **Gardening Companion** provides you with space in the app to record a searchable gardening journal, track your own planting experiences, research articles on various aspects of gardening, and set reminders for yourself (Time to water the plants! Time to order seeds! Time to plant the autumn garden!).

The **GRO** app (free) from Scotts Miracle-Gro offers project ideas, as well as tips and advice on growing specific plants. The app uses your phone's location to determine local conditions, such as USDA climate zone, temperature and popular geographic

plants. It even offers step-by-step plans to make growing a variety of plants, from

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photos and videos, along with user-uploaded advice.

If you just want to be inspired, check out the **Houzz** app which features beautiful photographs of real-life gardens that might motivate you to try something new.

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