

Mittleider Gardening Method: Six Laws of Plant Growth

Foundational Principle: A Plant Can Only Be As Productive As Its Greatest Limiting Factor

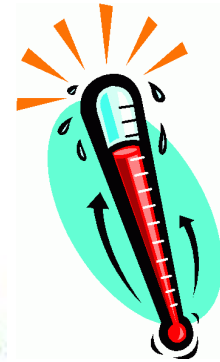
#1: Light

- Direct Sunlight All Day Long
- Best Sun Is Afternoon Sun
- Southern Exposure
- Tall Plants on North & East
- Prune Plants For Maximum Light



#2: Temperature

- Seed Germination: Soil Temperature 70-85 Degrees
- Seedling Production: 60-85 Degrees
- Outdoor Plants 60-95 Degrees
- Provide Partial Shade During Extreme Summer Heat
- Provide Shelter During Winter Cold



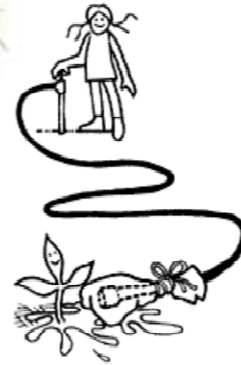
#3: Air

- Get 3 Nutrients from Atmosphere: Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen
- Plants Primarily Take In Air From Their Roots
- Need Proper Soil Drainage



#4: Water

- Clean Water, Doesn't Have To Be Potable
- Never Sprinkle. Wastes Water & Helps Bugs, Weeds & Diseases
- Early Morning Watering Is Best.
- Keep Soil Moist - Not Soggy
- A Wilting Plant Is A Dying Plant
- Level Garden Soil To Save Water
- Automate Watering



#5: Nutrition

J. I. Rodale, the “father” of the organic movement as the publisher of Organic Magazine, said, “A plant cannot tell the difference between nitrogen from a leaf and that from a fertilizer bag.”

- Plants Require Balanced Nutrition All The Time
- Plants Need 13 Minerals From The Soil
- Major Nutrients: Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium (N-P-K)
- Secondary Nutrients: Calcium, Sulfur, Magnesium
- Micro Nutrients: Zinc, Boron, Manganese, Iron, Copper, Chloride, Molybdenum
- Many Plants Have Nutrient Deficiency (Hidden Hunger) Not Disease



#6: Competition

- Weeds: Remove Annuals & Perennials, Weed Early & Often
- Insects: Wide Bare Dirt Walkways, 3-1/2', Keep Leaves Off The Ground
- Animals: Use Effective Barriers, Fences, Etc.
- Diseases: Fast Growing, Healthy Plants, Keep Leaves Off Of The Ground

