

10 Steps To Start a Backyard Plant Nursery



Starting a backyard plant nursery is an exciting venture for gardening enthusiasts and aspiring entrepreneurs. It combines the joy of growing plants with the potential for a profitable business. Whether you want to cultivate ornamental flowers, shrubs, or organic herbs, setting up a backyard nursery can be rewarding. Below are ten essential steps to help you establish a successful backyard plant nursery.

1. Assess Your Space and Soil Quality

Before diving into the plant nursery business, assess the space available in your backyard. Determine how much area can be dedicated to growing plants and consider any modifications

needed, such as removing obstacles or leveling the ground. Additionally, soil quality is crucial for plant health and growth. Test your soil for pH levels, nutrients, and texture. Amending your soil based on these results can provide a strong foundation for your plants.

2. Choose the Right Type of Plants

Selecting the right plants to grow is vital for the success of your backyard plant nursery. Consider factors like local climate, market demand, and your own preferences. Some plants may require less maintenance and be more profitable due to high demand in your area. Research plants that are popular and easy to care for, ensuring they are suitable for your climate zone.

3. Develop a Business Plan



A detailed business plan is crucial for any successful

enterprise, including a backyard plant nursery. Outline your business goals, target market, pricing strategy, and budget. Consider the costs of seeds, soil amendments, tools, and other supplies. A well-thought-out business plan helps you stay organized and attract potential investors or loans if necessary.

4. Obtain Necessary Permits and Licenses

Check with your local government to determine what permits or licenses are required to operate a nursery. This may include a business license, a nursery certification, or other specific permits related to agriculture and selling live plants. Compliance with local laws will prevent legal issues and help your business operate smoothly.

5. Set Up Your Nursery Layout

Efficiently planning your nursery layout can significantly impact productivity and ease of operation. Consider factors like sunlight exposure, irrigation needs, and accessibility. Set up areas for propagation, potting, and plant display. Proper spacing between plants will prevent disease spread and allow for easy maintenance.

6. Invest in Quality Supplies and Equipment



To start your nursery on the right foot, invest in high-quality supplies and equipment. This includes durable pots, reliable tools, and effective irrigation systems. Quality supplies can enhance plant growth and reduce the likelihood of equipment failures, saving time and money in the long run.

7. Implement an Effective Watering System

Adequate watering is critical for plant health. Depending on the scale of your nursery and the types of plants you grow, consider setting up an irrigation system. Drip irrigation is a water-efficient option that can be automated to save time and ensure consistent moisture levels. Regularly check your watering system to adjust schedules and prevent over or under-watering.

8. Master the Art of Propagation

Propagation skills are essential for expanding your plant inventory without incurring high costs. Learn various propagation techniques such as seed sowing, cuttings, division, and grafting. Each method has its benefits and is suitable for different types of plants. Enhancing your propagation skills can lead to quicker stock turnover and increased variety in your nursery.

9. Market Your Nursery



Effective marketing is key to attracting customers to your backyard plant nursery. Utilize online platforms, local garden clubs, and community boards to advertise your business. Create a brand identity, including a logo and consistent messaging across all marketing materials. Offer promotions and discounts to new customers to increase foot traffic and build a loyal clientele.

10. Provide Excellent Customer Service

Last but not least, providing exceptional customer service can differentiate your backyard plant nursery from competitors. Be knowledgeable about your plants and ready to offer advice on care and suitability for specific locations or needs. Offering a satisfaction guarantee or return policy can also build trust with your customers.

Create Your Perfect Backyard Plant Nursery Today!

Starting a backyard plant nursery is not just about growing plants—it's about creating a sustainable business that reflects your passion for horticulture. By following these ten steps, you can establish a thriving nursery right in your backyard. Whether you aim to beautify landscapes, contribute to local food sustainability, or simply share your love for plants, a backyard nursery offers a fulfilling path to achieving your goals.

Read More:

[Don't Buy Seeds from Monsanto—Buy from These 10 Companies Instead](#)

[5 Compelling Reasons to Purchase Seeds Over Harvesting from Fruits](#)

Could I Make Money With Worm Farming?



I was chatting with a friend the other day and she asked me if I'd ever heard about worm farming. I said, "sure, like to compost in your apartment, right?" And she said, "sure, but did you know that you can actually make money with worm farms?" Huh. I did not know that.

My Friend's Worm Farming Story

She had been out and about running her daily errands. In a parking lot, she saw someone pull up to a woman's car that was beside her and call out, "hey do you have any worms?" How could you not be curious about such an interaction! So, she got to talking to the woman. She found out that she's a worm farmer for a living. The woman raises about 8000-10000 worms. She sells them to gardeners and farmers and even to the city.

Occasionally, she faces battles you would never think about if you weren't a worm farmer. For example, her worms got taken over by centipedes and she lost most of her farm. She had to start over. How do you write off that loss on your taxes at the end of the year? The whole thing is so fascinating. And it got me wondering what's really involved in becoming a worm farmer.

Worms Are Good For Gardens

There are, of course, many different types of worms. Not all are ones you would want in your garden. But there are lot of benefits to worms in garden, particularly [earthworms](#). And actually, most worms are earthworms. If you see worms in your garden, then it's often a sign that your garden is healthy. And if you want a healthier garden, you might choose to add worms to your garden.

Worms help gardens by:

- Processing your soil and compost and turning it into nutrients. They essentially compost for you in a super effective way. As a result, they make your soil healthier and improve garden growth.
- They also move the earth around. They create tunnels in the soil that improve air and water movement as well as growth opportunities for the roots of plants.

So, I see two main benefits to worm farming:

1. The worms help your own garden to grow.
2. You can sell the worms to other people who want their gardens to grow.

You Can Make Money Worm Farming

In our conversation, my friend mention a pilot in Sonoma who made his money worm farming. So, I did my research and learned about [Jack Chambers](#). The story goes that he put some worms into his compost, left for five days, and came home shocked to discover rich soil where the worms were living. He fell in love with worm farming (called vermiculture, by the way) and turned it into a business. He's raised millions for his company, which sells the worms to farmers. In Sonoma, that means a lot of vineyards, too.

It seems like you could start this kind of business with relatively little investment. The [Savvy Smallholder](#) says that it can be a part-time or full-time job. Seems like something you could start small and see if you like it. At the very least, you will probably improve your own garden's soil in the process. They explain that if you aren't ready to raise worms to sell, then you can start with vermicomposting: "worm farming for recycling waste."

Apparently you can sell worm castings, various worm products, and the worms themselves. Worm castings are basically earthworm-created manure or fertilizer. As for the worms themselves, in addition to selling them to farms, you can sell them for bait. It's a business to think about!

How Much Do Garden Worms Cost?

I've never bought worms. Therefore, I was a little surprised to learn that you can buy them on Amazon for your garden. One pound of red wigglers, which seems to be about 1000 worms, sells for between \$40 and \$100 there. That said, there are lots of options at various price points. I would imagine that if you sell directly to small gardeners, and perhaps you use organic gardening techniques, then that would change your price. Likewise, if you have a huge worm farm and sell in bulk

to big farms, that would change the price. So, I can't tell what kind of profit you could make. But you don't seem to pay anything for worm upkeep since they're doing their thing in the compost and soil, so most of it must be profit.

What do you think about giving worm farming a try?

Read More:

- [How to Get Free Worms For Your Garden](#)
 - [DIY Compost Using a 5 Gallon Bucket](#)
 - [5 Reasons to Use Fish Amino Acids on Your Plants](#)
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7 Financial Benefits of Backyard Gardening



7 FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF

Backyard Gardening

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You probably started gardening as a hobby. However, you might have always wondered if you could use gardening to save money. You certainly can. In fact, you can actually garden to make

money if you're savvy about it. The financial benefits of backyard gardening go beyond just saving at the grocery store, too! Here are seven ways you can save/make money with your backyard garden:

1. Save Money on Food

Obviously, the first money-saving thing most people think about is eating from their garden. That's definitely one of the financial benefits of backyard gardening. After all, there are so many vegetables and herbs that you can grow yourself at a cost that's significantly lower than what you'd pay for the same quantity at the grocery store. [Earth Easy](#) shares that some of the most cost-effective vegetables to grow include lettuce, bell peppers, squash, tomatoes, and garlic.

2. Sell Your Extras

Many people grow more than they can ever possibly eat in one season. If you're skilled enough to create such a bounty, then you can definitely profit off of it. You might set up a stand at the local farmer's market. Perhaps you just want to set up a table in your own front yard on the weekends. Or maybe you just want to advertise on social media what you're selling during your harvest period. Whatever method you choose, this is a great way to supply others in your area with fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and even flowers while also making some money.

Remember that you can also harvest your seeds and cuttings for sale to other backyard gardeners. Also, consider bartering with those gardeners. Trading what you have for what you need means that you don't need to spend that extra money at the grocery store.

3. Plants as Gifts

You don't have to spend money on extra gifts when you have plenty growing right in your own backyard. Head back there and pick a bouquet of fresh flowers. Make a basket of fruits and vegetables. Or collect herbs in a little envelope. These are special, personal, useful gifts that don't cost you anything extra since you're gardening anyway.

4. The Money You Save on Entertainment and Exercise

[Debt Helper](#) points out that working in the garden is exercise. Therefore, you save on gym memberships and exercise equipment. Similarly, many people enjoy garden time as a form of entertainment. Cancel your streaming television services and get outside to watch the plants grow instead. These financial benefits of backyard gardening might not be obvious. However, if done intentionally, you can save a lot of money by considering all your garden provides.

5. Health Benefits of Gardening

Gardening offers so many benefits. The exercise you get from it is just one of those benefits. You also get Vitamin D, reduce stress, and derive many other benefits from your garden. Improving your physical and mental health is good for how you feel. It's also good for your bank account. You'll save money by avoiding doctors, medication, and the downtime of ill health.

6. Rent Out Your Garden

[US News](#) notes that you can make extra money by renting out your garden. If you have a beautiful space, then you might rent it out for events. Photographers might like to photograph your garden and the items in it. Even with a small garden, you might rent it out for picnics, wine nights, or craft sessions. Try using Airbnb Experiences to advertise unique opportunities like this for extra income.

7. Offer Gardening Classes

You've already learned a lot in your own backyard garden. Therefore, you possess knowledge that you can share with others. Many people would be willing to pay for your knowledge. Host classes in your garden.

Read More:

- [Profitable Greenhouse Crops: Money in Your Pocket](#)
- [Brice Capital Helped Me Launch My Produce Business](#)
- [4 Smart Garden Devices That Save Time and Money](#)

Profitable Greenhouse Crops: Money in Your Pockets



You've been growing for a while. You've built a DIY [greenhouse](#) (or [invested in one](#)) and decided that you want to turn your hobby into a profitable small business. Which plants should you focus on growing to ensure steady cash flow? Here are the most profitable greenhouse crops that you should consider growing:

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are the star of the garden world, and they thrive in greenhouse conditions. People love [tomatoes](#)! Choose specialty varieties, like heirloom strains, to offer unique selections to your customers. Pick indeterminate varieties for a continuous yield. No farmer's market stand is quite right without tomatoes, after all.

Leafy greens

Lettuce, [kale](#), chard, spinach are highly sought after produce items. There are also plenty of specialty varieties that can be marketed as gourmet. Leafy greens are easy to grow and

harvest. They also mature quicker than many other types of produce. Spinach, for instance, takes less than a month before it's ready to harvest. People don't mind paying a premium for fancy, flavorful lettuce mixes.

Rhubarb and Swiss Chard both great options that have edible leafy red stalks, and you can use this free comprehensive guide on how to [harvest rhubarb](#).

Herbs

Basil, cilantro, sage, rosemary. These are all popular with both chefs and home cooks. Most herb plants offer multiple harvests and require minimal space. You can grow them alongside other high-yield crops, as well. If you have an overflow of herbs, it's also possible to dehydrate them and sell dried, packaged herbs to customers.

Microgreens

Microgreens are a super-profitable greenhouse crop. They're also incredibly easy to grow and provide a hefty return. You don't even need a greenhouse to get started with growing microgreens, but a dedicated space is definitely an advantage. It takes less than a month to grow a tray of microgreens so you can harvest A LOT during a season. They also fetch a high price per pound. People love them because they're tasty and nutritious. The drawback of this crop, though, is the short shelf life.

Things to consider before jumping right in

Of course, starting a hobby farm business and selling profitable greenhouse crops is a bit more complicated than selecting high-value plants. **You can't sell produce without a**

buyer. Who will buy your plants? Will you sell directly to a local restaurant? Or do you plan to set up at a farmer's market? Considering demand is vital. Don't choose what to grow before you fully understand what your buyer wants. If your goal is to sell to a local restaurateur, have a chat and ask about what they might need then plant accordingly.

Think also about **how long individual plants take to mature.** Tomatoes are popular at farmer's markets, but they also require a long growing season and take up a significant amount of space. Does it make sense to focus on this crop if you have a tiny greenhouse space? Or should you focus on [quick-growing](#) plants that will yield multiple harvests and provide more opportunities for income?

Don't forget to factor in the effort required to grow plants. Certain types of produce require a lot more effort to grow than others. Many greens, for instance, don't require a lot of babysitting, but eggplants and tomatoes need a lot more TLC.