

# Don't Buy Seeds From Monsanto – Buy From These 10 Companies Instead



In recent years, there's been a growing movement among gardeners and small farmers to seek alternatives to seeds from large agribusinesses like Monsanto. Known for its genetically modified (GM) seeds and a business model that discourages seed saving, Monsanto has faced criticism from various sectors advocating for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity. If you're looking to buy seeds that support more ethical and environmentally friendly practices, here are ten companies that offer great alternatives. These companies emphasize organic, heirloom, and non-GM seeds, contributing to more diverse and sustainable gardening and farming practices.

# 1. Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds



Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds is a premier name in the world of non-GMO heirloom seed suppliers. Founded in 1998, this company has been a staunch opponent of genetically modified seeds. They offer one of the biggest selections of seeds from the 19th century, including many European and Asian varieties. Their extensive catalog is not only a testament to biodiversity but also an active commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Gardeners looking to diversify their crops can find an array of unique varieties that are not commonly available in commercial seed markets.

## 2. Seed Savers Exchange



Seed Savers Exchange is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to heirloom seeds. Since 1975, they have been at the forefront of the heirloom seed movement, working to preserve genetic diversity and sharing seeds with their members. They offer over 600 varieties of heirloom vegetables, flowers, herbs, and plants. Their catalog also provides extensive information on the history and cultivation of each seed, making it not just a purchase but an educational resource for sustainable gardening.

### **3. Southern Exposure Seed Exchange**



Focusing on varieties that perform well in the Southern United States, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange offers a wide range of non-GMO, organic, and heirloom seeds. They are particularly noted for their selection of seeds that are adapted to the Mid-Atlantic region, providing resistance to local pests and diseases. By purchasing from Southern Exposure, gardeners and farmers support a company that actively participates in seed preservation and promotes ecological diversity.

## **4. Territorial Seed Company**



Territorial Seed Company offers organic, heirloom, and hybrid seeds, all of which are non-GMO. They are known for their rigorous trial gardens, where they test seeds before adding them to their catalog, ensuring that their offerings are both high-quality and adaptable to various climates and soils. This dedication makes them a reliable source for both novice gardeners and experienced farmers who need seeds that lead to robust plants and bountiful yields.

## **5. Johnny's Selected Seeds**



Johnny's Selected Seeds is a well-respected supplier among commercial and home gardeners alike, offering a wide array of organic, non-GMO, and heirloom seeds. What sets Johnny's apart is its employee-owned business model and commitment to providing research-based seed improvements. This scientific approach helps develop varieties that require fewer chemical inputs, promoting more natural growing practices.

## **6. High Mowing Organic Seeds**



As a 100% organic seed company, High Mowing Organic Seeds is dedicated to supporting healthy food systems by offering only certified organic seeds. They are an excellent choice for those who want to ensure that their gardening or farming practices are entirely organic from seed to harvest. Their extensive selection includes everything from vegetable seeds to medicinal herbs, catering to all types of organic growers.

## **7. Renee's Garden**



Renee's Garden sells heirloom and gourmet vegetable, flower, and herb seeds. They are unique in that they offer seeds chosen personally by Renee, a garden writer and tester who focuses on great-tasting easy-to-grow varieties. Each packet of seeds comes with detailed planting instructions and recipes, making Renee's Garden particularly appealing to culinary gardeners and those new to growing their own food.

## **8. Botanical Interests**





Botanical Interests is known for its beautiful seed packets, which are filled with detailed seed information, including a full-color illustration, history, and planting instructions. Their commitment to organic gardening practices is evident in their extensive selection of organic and non-GMO seeds. By choosing Botanical Interests, gardeners support a company that values education and transparency in gardening.

## 9. Seeds of Change



Seeds of Change was founded in 1989 with the goal of making organic seeds more accessible to gardeners. They offer 100% certified organic seeds, which include both heirloom and traditional varieties. They are committed to promoting sustainable organic agricultural practices, and a portion of their sales is donated to support this cause.

## **10. Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply**



Known as Grow Organic, Peaceful Valley offers a broad range of organic farming and gardening supplies, including seeds. They provide a diverse array of heirloom, organic, and non-GMO seeds at reasonable prices, making it easier for gardeners to adopt sustainable practices. Their commitment to environmental stewardship and education makes them a top choice for eco-conscious growers.

**Make Sure to Buy Seeds from These Companies Instead of Monsanto**



Choosing where to buy seeds can be a powerful statement in support of biodiversity, sustainability, and ethical business practices. By opting for these companies over Monsanto, gardeners and farmers can contribute to a more sustainable future while enjoying a richer variety of plants in their gardens and farms. Each company listed here brings something unique to the table, from supporting organic farming practices to preserving heirloom varieties. When planning your next planting season, consider these alternatives for a garden that supports not just your needs but the health of the planet as well.

**Read More:**

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

[5 Fast Growing Seeds for Beginner Gardeners](#)

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# 14 Essential Gardening Products That Are Under \$10 on Amazon



Starting and maintaining a garden rarely has to be an expensive endeavor. There are really only a few essential products for gardening. Surprisingly, many of these are \$10 Gardening Products. In other words, you can get what you need for ten dollars or less in each essential category if you're smart about your purchases. These can all be found on Amazon:

## 14 Essential Gardening Products

Everyone has their own definition of “essential” when it comes

to gardening. That said, here are what I consider the 14 most essential gardening products. Moreover, I've included options for each of them at \$10 or less.

## 1. Watering Can or Hose

It's essential to have a way to water the plants in your garden. If you're looking for \$10 gardening products in this category, here are a few solid options:

### Watering Cans:

- Esterno Kids' Dragon Watering Can. Looking for kids' watering cans is a great way to get them for under \$10. They're also small and light since they are designed for children to carry. As a result, they are a good option for small gardens as well as for people with weight lifting restrictions.
- The HC Companies 1/2 Gallon Essential Watering Can. Similarly, small capacity adult watering cans are often affordable.
- JDEFEG Hose 12 Ft Bonsai 3L 101oz Long Plants Garden Watering Can. If you're looking for a larger capacity water can then this is a good option.

### Hoses:

It's a little bit tougher to find hoses in the \$10 gardening products section. Consider:

- FHYTGBS Expandable Magic Flexible Garden Hose Pipe, with 7 Function Nozzles, 3 Times Expansion Water Hose. The 25 foot size is under \$10. The 175 foot hose is about twice that.
- XCYY brand also has a 25 foot hose for about \$10.
- Funjee brand has some 2 foot hoses that are under \$10 if you only need a short hose.

Note that if you already have a hose but want a good nozzle, you can find some in the \$10 gardening products category. For example, check out the mozeeda brand Garden Hose Sprayer Nozzle for Watering on Amazon.

## 2. Gardening Gloves

Protect your hands from thorns, prickly plants, and blisters while working in the garden. It's easy to find good options for gardening gloves under \$10 on Amazon. Best picks:

- COOLJOB Gardening Gloves made of foamed latex rubber
- [MERTURN Leather Gardening Gloves for Women](#) Thorn Proof Garden Gloves with Touch Screen fingers
- Foamy Claw Gardening Gloves are really unique because they have "claws" on the ends for digging.
- Digz has some really cute designs for gardening gloves.

## 3. Garden Twine

This is essential for tying up plants, training vines, and providing support to climbing plants. As with gloves, it's easy to find twine in the \$10 gardening products category. In fact, most of the twine you'll find there, including natural jute as well as synthetic twine, will be under \$10.

## 4. Seed Starting Trays

If you're going to start plants in the garden from seed, then you'll find that these are essential. It's fairly easy to find these under \$10. Some options:

- Lawei 30 Pack Seed Starter Tray (for a total of 300 seed starter cells)
- COCONUT & CO. 144 Cells Seedling Starter Trays

- Yuanwovv 40Pcs 3.2" Peat Pots
- Hanaoyo Reusable Seed Starter Tray (for 24 seed cells per tray)

## 5. Fertilizer

Fertilizer is an essential component for promoting healthy plant growth. It's how you provide the necessary nutrients for your garden. You can get many different types of fertilizer. Some good options under \$10 on Amazon include:

- Jobe's Organic 4 lb Fertilizer
- Burpee Natural Purpose 4 Lb Organic Food for Growing Strong Plants
- Scotts All Purpose Flower & Vegetable Continuous Release Plant Food, 3 lb.
- Dr. Earth 1 lb 4-6-3 MINIS Home Grown Tomato, Vegetable and Herb Fertilizer
- Cute Farms Succulent, Cacti, & Aloe Fertilizer, 4 oz.

## 6. Mulch

Mulch helps maintain soil moisture, regulate temperature, prevent weed growth, and protect the soil. It's tougher to find mulch than fertilizer in the \$10 category but check out:

- SuperMoss Coco Mulch
- Coco Coir Brick for Plants
- Sukh Orchid Potting Mix if you happen to need mulch for orchids

## 7. Soil pH Testing Kit

This helps you determine the acidity or alkalinity of your soil. With this knowledge, you can choose appropriate plants or make necessary adjustments. Try:



- Viagrow VPHTK pH Kit Drops Complete with Testing Vial, 1.4 oz
- MEASUREMAN 3-in-1 Moisture/Light/pH Soil Tester
- Gain Express Soil pH, Moisture & Light Meter 3 Way Tester Kit
- Luster Leaf Rapitest pH Soil Tester

## 8. Garden Fork

This is one of several garden tools among our list of essential \$10 gardening products. A garden fork, also called a cultivator, is deal for turning and loosening soil, breaking up clumps, and incorporating organic matter. There are many different styles. Examples under \$10 include:

- Truper 6" Floral Garden Tool Fork
- JCBIZ Carbon Steel Garden Weeding Fork
- Fiskars Xact Hand Garden Cultivator

## 9. Hand Trowel

This is a versatile and essential tool for digging, planting, and transplanting small plants and flowers. There are lots of great affordable hand trowels. Try Fiskars Ergonomic Gardening Hand Trowel or Edwards Heavy Duty Carbon Steel Garden Hand Shovel with Ergonomic Grip.

## 10. Garden Hoe

This helps control weeds by breaking up the soil's surface and cultivating around plants. Consider the Elegital Kana Hoe. Amazon also has a lot of generic brand garden hoes under \$10.

BONUS: [Edward Tools Stainless Steel Hoe and Cultivator](#) is a combination hoe and fork for under \$10.

## 11. Pruning Shears

Use pruning shears to trim and shape plants, remove dead or damaged branches, and harvest herbs and vegetables. It's easy to find a good pair of small pruning shears on Amazon for under \$10. HyleJhJy Pruning Shears with Stainless, VIVOSUN 6.5 Inch Gardening Scissors and WORKPRO 8.5" Garden Bypass Pruning Shears are some examples.

## 12. Garden Rake

Use a rake to level soil, remove debris, and prepare the garden bed for planting. Unfortunately, when looking for garden rakes in the \$10 gardening products category, you're mostly going to find hand rakes which are the same things as forks/cultivators.

You want to find a longer, larger rake. One option for a longer handle is Martha Stewart MTS-TEC Telescoping 3-Prong Garden Cultivator with Comfort Grip Handle. That said, for a real leaf-raking rake, you're going to expect to pay about \$20.

## 13. Sprayer

A garden sprayer allows you to apply liquid fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides evenly and efficiently. Check out Chapin International G390 Lawn Hose End Sprayer for Fertilizer in the 20-Gallon size for a solid option.

## 14. Seeds or Plants

After all, you can't have a garden without them. You can find many options in this category, of course.

*What do you think are the most essential \$10 gardening products?*

## Read More:

- [5 Cheap Substitutes for Seedling Trays](#)
  - [Greek Gardening Style on the Cheap](#)
  - [Cheap Must-Have Tools for Frugal Gardeners](#)
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# 7 Free Gardening Ebooks You Can Download Right Now



I'm a huge fan of ebooks. I'm so into them that I actually have TWO e-readers! One for my library books and another for advanced reader copies (ARCs). Many people out there are

willing to share their gardening knowledge. These [free](#) gardening ebooks are an excellent choice for frugal gardeners, people new to gardening, and even just people who want a bit of inspiration before they get their hands dirty.

Most of these books are available for free with a Kindle Unlimited subscription. A few of them are free without one. And a few books aren't free but still under \$5!

If you're interested in creating your gardening ebooks, consider exploring a [free ebook maker](#) to share your expertise with others! It's a fantastic way to contribute to the wealth of knowledge available in the gardening community while also showcasing your passion and skills.

Read on for a brief description of each book and what you can hope to learn from reading it.

## Free Gardening Ebooks

### [Garden Potpourri: Gardening Tips from the Easy-Growing Gardening Series](#)

This under \$5 ebook includes a collection of tips to suit both advanced and beginner gardeners. If you're sad about the gardening season ending, this might be a nice way to remind yourself that a new season is on its way.

### [Urban Homesteading: The Ultimate Homestead Guide to Becoming a City Homesteader](#)

This title is available for free with a Kindle Unlimited membership. If you've always dreamed of having your own homestead in the city, this is a good place to start.

## **Greenhouse Gardening: The Ultimate Step-by-Step Gardener's Manual for Beginners**

This Kindle Unlimited ebook is all about how to get started with growing fruit and veg inside a [greenhouse](#). You'll get tips on how to plan your greenhouse and even how to make money growing inside your new structure.

## **Keyhole Gardening: An Introduction to Growing Vegetables In A Keyhole Garden**

Learn about this no-dig gardening method that's perfect for small spaces. This is a great gardening method for frugal gardeners who don't want to spend a ton of resources on growing plants.

## **Growing Food In Winter: An Introduction To Growing Food Crops Out Of Season**

Anyone who knows me knows that I'm a huge nerd for winter gardening. When you live somewhere with a short growing season, it's nice to know that there are possibilities for growing beyond the summertime. This gardening ebook covers a host of subjects, including winter crops, hot bed gardening, and planting times.

## **Container Gardening Month by Month: A Monthly Listing of Tips and Ideas for Creating a Professional Container Garden**

One of the most challenging aspects of gardening is knowing what to do when. Keeping track of what needs to get done can be overwhelming—especially if you're new to gardening. This ebook gives you monthly checklists so you can keep on task and focus on taking care of your plants.

## [Container Gardening for Beginners: A Guide to Growing Your Own Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs, and Edible Flowers](#)

I love growing in containers! Pots are easy to move around, and plants are a lot more manageable when kept in containers. This book is a great choice if you're new to growing in containers and need a bit of wisdom to get you going.

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## **4 Smart Garden Devices That Save Time and Money**





Manual work in the garden is sometimes gratifying, but over time the grind becomes tedious. Thankfully, there are a host of smart gardening products out there that can help save you



time and money. Which smart garden devices are worth the investment?

Here are my top 4 smart gadget recommendations for gardeners seeking to save time and spend less money on their edible plots.

## **Instapark Outdoor Automatic Watering Timer**

I recently purchased and installed an automatic watering timer to [water](#) my front yard flower patch. This section of my garden sits under my home's roof overhang so it rarely receives any natural water and my regular hose doesn't reach that far, so it's a pain to water manually. I got some cheap irrigation hoses and connected them to this digital timer (both the hoses and timer cost under \$50) and now this perma-dry spot gets watered on a regular basis. There's a neat option to skip watering days (in case of rain), which I make sure to do so as not to waste water. The whole set up was inexpensive and it saves me loads of time in the long run. Last year, I relied on rainwater to wet this area and I lost quite a few plants, which I had spent time and money starting from seed.

## **Flexi Hose Expandable Garden Hose**

I don't quite know what I was doing before I had this kind of hose. Now, watering is such a breeze it barely feels like a chore. Lugging around a heavy, clunky hose that's hard to put away? That's far from ideal. I'd sometimes skip watering because I hated to untangle the easily kinked hose. A flexible, expandable hose has its own challenges—it's a fair bit more delicate than a heavy-duty hose—but it's always easy to carry throughout the garden and it's a delight to put away since it shrinks down to size once drained. Just be sure to store it away for the winter to prevent the casing from cracking. While this isn't technically a smart device, I think

the design is clever enough to qualify. It has saved me time and money because it makes watering a lot easier and I haven't neglected my watering duties since getting this type of hose.

## **AcuRite Wireless Rain Gauge**

When it comes to gardening, I rely on the weather forecast a lot. No matter how diligent I am in checking the weekly weather predictions, I can't accurately measure the amount of rain my garden gets without the help of a gadget. A plain rain gauge does the trick, but if you like smart technology, this nifty wireless device is a handy monitoring tool. It's a self-emptying collector that's useful for checking how much rainwater your garden is getting. It's also an excellent device for people in flood-prone areas. And it costs under \$50!

## **Click and Grow Indoor Smart Garden**

This intelligent garden system is on the higher end of the price scale, but it's well worth the investment. I've grown so many herbs in this little automated garden that I never buy them at the grocery store anymore. The hydroponic unit makes it possible to grow [greens](#), herbs, and other plants indoors all year round. All you need to do is add water and harvest away!