

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](#)

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.