

Marvin, Marvin, How Does Your Garden Grow?

You, your kids, your pets and your planet can all live a little safer and healthier with the help of this local company. Read on to learn more!



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Making Cincinnati more sustainable makes Cincinnati healthier, and **Marvin's Organic Gardens** is helping to do just that. Located in Lebanon, Ohio, Marvin's promotes the health of customers, their family, their pets and their visitors, all while emphasizing the health of Planet Earth.

Marvin's received USDA Organic certification in 2003 and has kept up their

eco-ways ever since. From attracting more birds and beneficial insects to prevent plant damage to using newspaper to prevent weeds, Marvin's and its employees know how to pull gardening tricks out of their sleeves without relying on chemicals and harmful practices.

"Out with the old in with the ancient. We're just doing what our ancestors did," Landscape Manager Wes Duren says. "Organic gardening was the way everyone did it before the '40s. Then we [humans] tried to perfect an already perfect system." By using chemicals on the earth, one problem subsides while another pops up for another chemical to tackle, so Marvin's works to maintain a natural system — and it works.

Most of the organic products that Marvin's uses last longer than the comparable non-organic products last, which actually makes organic gardening more cost-effective, Duren says. For example, one application of Milky Spore, an organic Japanese beetle grub control, will continue working in the soil for 10 years without causing harm to other insects, humans, pets or the environment.

Marvin's also promotes a healthy environment while saving money through its composting efforts. Marvin's maintains compost certification from the Environmental Protection Agency and turns yard waste and food waste into nutrient-rich compost. "It's recycling at its finest," Duren says.

The organic company doesn't stop with its own practices, though. Marvin's sells the products and teaches the practices that the company uses. "We're really passionate educators on organic gardening. We're very passionate about teaching the alternative because we see how effective it is," Duren says. Marvin's has about 35 different talks that employees can present to individual groups upon request, and lectures, classes and events are listed on the **calendar of events** on the company Web site.

One upcoming event is Marvin's Second Annual thinkGREEN Earth Day Event, happening Saturday, April 25. From noon to 6:30 p.m. attendees will enjoy music and food as they visit education stations and take part in hands-on workshops. At 1 p.m. Assistant Garden Center Manager Leslie Shimer will demonstrate how anyone can grow her own produce with a vegetable container garden. The free, family-friendly event even features a petting zoo.

For more information about Marvin's or to find out about how you can transform your lawn and garden into an organic, healthy haven, visit the company's Web site.

PHOTO CREDITS

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