

## How green is your garden?

Marvin's Organic Gardens



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### Organic techniques are attracting more interest, and research shows a **growing trend**

By Beth Burwinkel  
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While a mere 5 percent of gardeners in the United States say they use all "organic" methods, according to the National Gardening Association, interest in organic and all-natural techniques is on a slow, steady take-off.

About 35 percent of gardeners are what they call hybrid gardeners, who use both chemical and organic methods.

Bruce Butterfield, research director for the gardening association, expects all-natural and organic gardening to grow at a rate of 10 percent in each of the next several years.

What's driving this growth?



**Marvin Duren** of Marvin's Organic Gardens in Lebanon started organic gardening by composting.

"There's a general trend for people to want to be 'green' across the board in their lives," Butterfield said during a Web conference earlier this month on consumer trends in organic and natural gardening. The "greening of America has become much more popular."

Amy Casper is seeing more interest in organics at Greenacres Foundation in Indian Hill, which gardens organically and sells food produced at the farm.

"I think people are much more aware of not wanting to resort to chemicals, even in flower gardens," says Casper, Greenacres garden manager. "There's at least more awareness now that there are other options available."

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