

Mike McGrath

Mike hosts the nationally syndicated [You Bet Your Garden](#), which airs (as a television show) every Saturday morning at 10 am and again the following Monday and Wednesday afternoons on WLVT; PBS 39 in Bethlehem PA; and at various times around the country as a syndicated PBS half-hour.

YBYG also continues its run as an hour-long radio show. Our presenting station is the newly launched WLVR-FM; 91.3 in Bethlehem PA; Saturday mornings at noon and Sundays at 11. The show is also heard on Public Radio stations across the nation—including Nashville, Memphis, Norfolk, Santa Barbara, State College, Oklahoma City, St. Thomas, Texas, Alabama, North Carolina, Alaska, Maryland, Michigan, and other exotic locales.

A large listener base also tunes in worldwide via the Internet; and the show is available as a podcast through the YBYG website: www.youbetyourgarden.org.

Mike's "Question of the Week" feature appears in print weekly at the [Gardens Alive](#) website, which also hosts [a searchable archive](#) of hundreds of past articles on gardening, pest control and related topics.

(The show originally aired out of WHYI in Philadelphia. Launched in 1998, it ran on WHYI for 19 years and 51 weeks before moving to PBS 39 in Bethlehem.)

Since 1999, Mike has been Garden Editor for *WTOP*, the top-rated all-news radio station in Washington, D.C. His one-minute long "*Garden Plot*" segments air on Saturday at fifty minutes after the hour, from 5:50 am thru 5:50 pm. You can read the written version at <https://wtop.com/>; here's a direct link to The Garden Plot: <https://wtop.com/living/gardening/garden-plot/>

"*You Bet Your Garden*" is also the name of Mike's column in the quarterly gardening publication [Greenprints](#) ("*The Weeder's Digest*"), appearing in every issue since 1998.

In 2012, Mike gave a TEDx Talk on composting that has 'gone viral' and surpassed a million views. Here's a link to the video on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9OhxKlrWwc>.

Mike was Editor-In-Chief of *ORGANIC GARDENING* magazine from February 1991 through December 1997. During that time, "*OG*" was the largest circulation gardening magazine in the world and became a major exhibitor at the prestigious [Philadelphia Flower Show](#) from 1993 to 1997, garnering four consecutive "Best of Show" awards. Mike now lectures at the Flower Show every year.

From 1993 through 1997, Mike appeared monthly as the regular gardening expert on the weekend edition of [The Today Show](#), Saturday mornings on NBC.

In 1992, Mike received a ‘Quill & Trowel’ award from the Garden Writers of America for his “Openings” editorial columns. In 1993, **ORGANIC GARDENING** received the Editorial Excellence award from Folio: magazine. And in 1995, Media Dynamics proclaimed *OG* “the most popular magazine in America” after research and survey data revealed that it was the magazine most saved by its readers (more than National Geographic!); the magazine most often read from cover to cover; and the magazine readers would miss most if it ceased publication.

Mike’s most recent publication is “***The You Bet Your Garden Guide to Growing Great Tomatoes***”. Released in February 2012 by Fox Chapel Publishing, it’s a brand new, completely revised and updated third edition of Mike’s classic tomato tome, which was previously titled “***You Bet Your Tomatoes***”. Mike is also the author of:

“***The Kitchen Garden Box; Save & Sow Seeds of Your Favorite Vegetables***”, a boxed set of 55 cards and illustrated seed-saving envelopes (‘a book in a box’) from Quirk Publishers (2009). “***Mike McGrath’s Book of Compost***”, released by Sterling publishers in the Fall of 2006; and “***Kitchen Garden A to Z***” (Abrams; 2004).

Mike also edited the book “***The Best of OG***” (Rodale; 1995); co-authored “***Save Three Lives: A Plan For Famine Prevention***” with Robert Rodale (Sierra Club Books; 1991); and compiled “***The Best of the Worst***” for Marvel Comics’ Publisher and legend Stan Lee (Harper & Row; 1979/Rhino reissue; 1994).

Mike was Entertainment Editor of Philadelphia’s weekly alternative newspaper The Drummer, and Editor of the associated college paper The Daily Planet in the mid 1970s. He wrote countless feature articles for The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Philadelphia Daily News in the 70s and 80s, and enjoyed two brief stints at Marvel Comics; as editor of their British line in 1971 and as a writer and editor in the ‘Marvel Bullpen’ in 1979.

He joined Rodale Press as an Editor in their book division in 1984, launched Allergy Relief Newsletter (Executive Editor; ’85 –’88), and then served as Executive Editor of Men Health (the newsletter from which the hugely successful magazine was developed) for two years before taking the helm of **ORGANIC GARDENING**.

Mike lives in the boonies of Lehigh County, PA with his family, organic garden, and an inconsistent number of rescued cats. He plays pinball, enjoys baseball, grows way too many tomatoes, and will not eat lima beans, no matter how much you pay him.

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