**Let Mid America Croplife Association Know You Support the White House Garden**

By [Colleen Vanderlinden](http://organicgardening.about.com/bio/Colleen-Vanderlinden-42535.htm), About.com Guide   April 15, 2009****

After the great discussions we had back [when I posted about Mid America Croplife Association's "shudder" over the First Lady's organic garden](http://organicgardening.about.com/b/2009/04/01/big-ag-white-house-organic-garden-makes-us-shudder.htm), I thought you might want to know that there's now an official way to tell MACA exactly what you think. CREDO Action has started an online petition to be sent to all of the board members of Mid America Croplife Association letting them know that we appreciate and approve of the White House organic garden---and that they should stop pushing chemicals as the only possible path to a healthy garden (because, you know, "crop protection products" and "health" go hand in hand....)

**The text of the petition reads:**

"We, the undersigned, write to tell you that we are fully supportive of Michelle Obama's organic garden at the White House. Michelle Obama has done America a great service by publicizing the importance of nutritious food for kids as well as locally grown produce as an important, environmentally sustainable food source. Your propaganda about pesticides is misleading and hurts America. Stop asserting that the First Lady is somehow disserving our nation's citizens by encouraging them to grow their own food locally, sustainably and without your industry's chemicals. We know better and you should, too."

CREDO has a goal of obtaining 75,000 signatures, and they are already 92% of the way there, after only having the petition online for less than two days. I love that Americans are sending a very clear message: **we support organic gardens!**

Make yourself heard; [add your name to the petition](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/wh_garden/?rc=homepage). And let us know you signed---you deserve some recognition for taking action on behalf of organic gardening.

*Photo courtesy of whitehouse.gov.*

# Colleen Vanderlinden

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Colleen Vanderlinden has been gardening organically for over twelve years. While her first love was growing ornamentals, she soon became addicted to growing her own fruit, vegetables, and herbs. She's gardened in everything from a single window box to a small borrowed plot, and currently rests her garden clogs on 1/4 of an acre in the suburbs of Detroit.

### Experience:

Colleen is the author of the book *Edible Gardening for the Midwest*. In her quest to help other gardeners go organic, she started her website, In the Garden Online, in 2003. To spread the word about garden blogging, she launched the Mouse & Trowel Awards in 2007. As a result, she's been interviewed by the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Radish*, and has gotten coverage in several newspapers nation-wide. Her garden writing has appeared in *The Detroit News* and *Birds & Blooms*.

### From Colleen Vanderlinden:

Organic gardening is a way of life for me. I've been in love with plants for as long as I can remember. From my grandmother's gigantic lilac hedge to my mom's rose bushes, plants are part of who I am. I've always gardened organically. I just don't see the point in using synthetic chemicals in my garden. So much of organic gardening is about using common sense, about unlearning what generations of "spray everything in sight" have taught us. At its best, gardening is good for the gardener, good for the neighborhood, and good for the planet.