

What Works – Quicker Reliable Internet Searches

The Internet is a great way to get current information on almost any topic but how do you sort through all the information and find a reliable source. Here are a few tips to limit your searches that will do the sorting for you. This example gives you the results using the various methods in Google for “**green bean rust**”.

1. Typing in **green bean rust** into Google resulted in 8,540,000 results!
2. Typing **green bean rust university extension** reduced the search to 4,540,000 results and ordered the university extension sites from around the country to the top of the results.
3. Typing **green bean rust Wisconsin** narrowed those results to 2,730,000.
4. By putting quotes around “**green bean rust**” the search was reduced to 48,100 and the results included both commercial and academic sites including opinions and blogs of many gardeners.
5. Typing **green bean rust Wisconsin site:edu** further reduced those results to 21,300. By including “**site:edu**” those results are limited to all sites that are educational, sites with a domain of **.com** are excluded. If you wanted to limit your search to only commercial products you might want to limit your search by including **site:com** in your search. By searching **green bean rust Wisconsin site:com** 2,120,000 results were returned.
6. Finally if you want to limit to a particular site type **green bean rust site:uwex.edu**. that returned 92 results. The “**site:uwex.edu**” limited this search to the UW Extension website materials. This can work for any website domain.

When doing research for my gardens I now almost always include the words “university extension” along with the subject of my search or one of the above techniques to limit the returns to reliable university information.