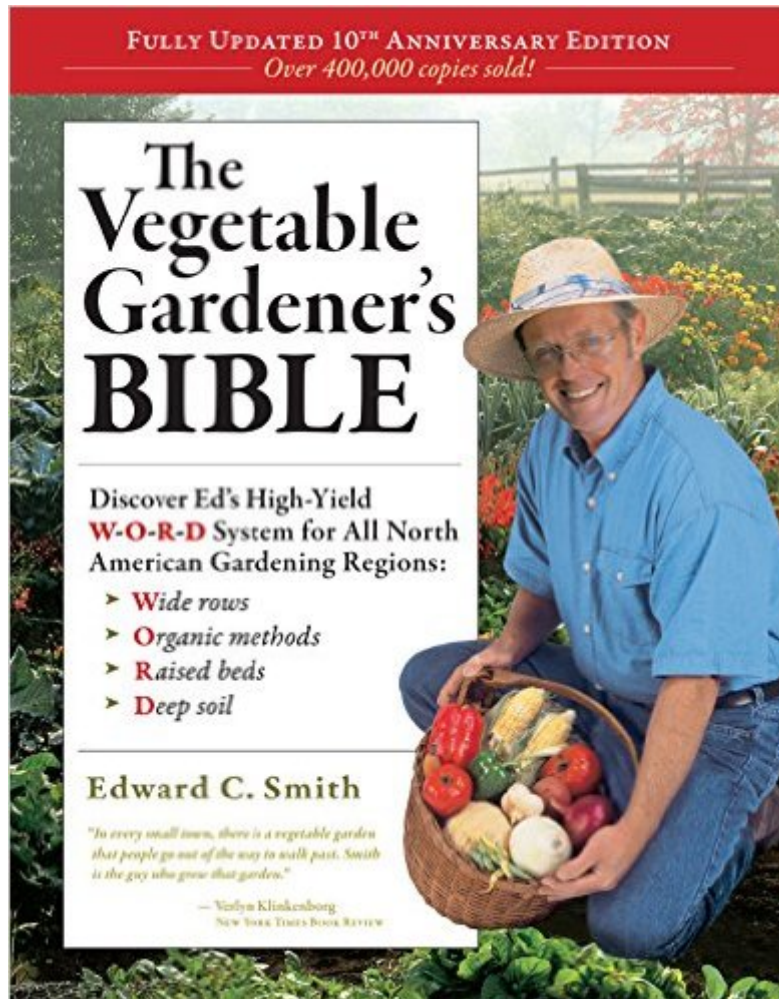


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# The Vegetable Gardener's Bible, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

The invaluable resource for home food gardeners! Ed Smith's W-O-R-D system has helped countless gardeners grow an abundance of vegetables and herbs. And those tomatoes and zucchini and basil and cucumbers have nourished countless families, neighbors, and friends with delicious, fresh produce. The Vegetable Gardener's Bible is essential reading for locavores in every corner of North America! Everything you loved about the first edition of The Vegetable Gardener's Bible is still here: friendly, accessible language; full-color photography; comprehensive vegetable specific information in the A-to-Z section; ahead-of-its-time commitment to organic methods; and much more. Now, Ed Smith is back with a 10th Anniversary Edition for the next generation of vegetable gardeners. New to this edition is coverage of 15 additional vegetables, including an expanded section on salad greens and more European and Asian vegetables. Readers will also find growing information on more fruits and herbs, new cultivar photographs in many vegetable entries, and a much-requested section on extending the season into the winter months. No matter how cold the climate, growers can bring herbs indoors and keep hardy greens alive in cold frames or hoop houses. The impulse to grow vegetables is even stronger in 2009 than it was in 2000, when Storey published The Vegetable Gardener's Bible. The financial and environmental costs of fossil fuels raise urgent questions: How far should we be shipping food? What are the health costs of petroleum-based pesticides and herbicides? Do we have to rely on megafarms that use gasoline-powered machinery to grow and harvest crops? With every difficult question, more people think, "Maybe I should grow a few vegetables of my own." This book will continue to answer all their vegetable gardening questions. Praise for the First Edition: "In every small town, there is a vegetable garden that people go out of the way to walk past. Smith is the guy who grew that garden." — Verlyn Klinkenborg, The New York Times Book Review "An abundance of photographs . . . visually bolster the techniques described, while frequent subheads, sidebars, and information-packed photo captions make the layout user-friendly . . . [Smith's] book is thorough and infused with practical wisdom and a dry Vermont humor that should endear him to readers." — Publisher's Weekly "Smith . . . clearly explains everything novice and experienced gardeners need to know to grow vegetables and herbs. . . ." — Library Journal "this book will answer all your questions as well as put you on the path to an abundant harvest. As a bonus, anecdotes and stories make this informative book fun to read." — New York Newsday

## Book Information

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Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Gardening

## Customer Reviews

UPDATE: I just had to come back a year later to reaffirm just how much I depend on this book.

Seriously, it's all that and then some! My poor paperback is so beat up on the outside. But the inside is holding up very well, so is the actual binding. I've tried so many times to put it away, but it ends up coming right back out shortly after. Anytime I get to thinking about growing something or if I want to improve things in the garden, check the PH, nutrients, etc. back to the book I go. I really do highly recommend it to anyone who isn't yet a "master" gardener. Who knows, they might even learn something from it! I think the reason it is so popular, other than the data being dependable, is the layout is so common sense. The whole back of the book has pages dedicated to each vegetable and you just go in alphabetical order to access that page. So my point is, if you are floundering around trying to pinpoint which gardening book to start with, this is it!

ORIGINAL REVIEW: I started gardening for the first time last year and have used this book to the point that the edges are curled and it looks like it's 10 years old! It tells a little about everything. Whenever I need to know how deep to plant, spacing or what nutrients plants need, it's all right there on one page! I believe it is more focused on northern gardens, but I live in the deep south and it still came in quite handy! I never actually put this book away. If I do, it comes right back out within a few days. It is a great introduction to gardening organically and tells enough to get you started on everything. If you need more information you would need to research further, but this book provides enough to get you going for sure. I give it 5 stars for the layout, pictures, information and ease of use! Happy gardening!

I own a number of books on vegetable gardening, as I have been gardening [and collecting topical books] for over 35 years in 7 different sites. I've observed that in many garden how-to books, the authors get very carried away with themselves, touting "my way" as the only way. To me, that's kind of off-putting, due to each garden is so different from all others, even in a neighboring yard. I don't get a lot of the "my way" attitude from this book. It's chock full of useful information, but the author is careful to say there is more than one way to do many of the chores and tasks related to the vegetable garden, as well as options for varieties of plants and seeds. One thing you won't find is a bunch of recipes or cooking ideas, which is fine with me. I don't cook in the garden, and I have plenty of recipes in my RECIPE books - don't need them in the gardening books. The text is in an easy conversational style, which I appreciated. The book offers sections on preparation, composting, fertilizer, pest control. The back part of the book is vegetable specific, with tips on how to grow various veggies along with the names of proven varieties and comparisons of those. Lastly, there is a section on herb gardening, which is an art in and of itself. This book will serve as a wonderful basic reference for anyone starting out with their first (or second or 20th) vegetable garden. After all, when it comes to gardening, in a sense don't we start all over again every year?!

I saw this book advertised as being essential for vegetable gardeners "anywhere in the country." That may be true if you're first starting out. I did learn some stuff from this book. However, I live in North Carolina, and much of it didn't apply to me. I found information on heating the ground and extending the season, etc. much too heavily weighted against living with heat and humidity and providing good air circulation, etc. Also, he leaves out many mulches, gardening practices and pests from the South. The author talks about many good garden practices, but you can find that information in many places. I agree with another reviewer who suggested some of the in-depth seed catalogs, like Johnny's. (Johnny's has been invaluable to me, and they're based in Maine ....) Also, the heft of this book didn't seem worth it for the graphics, cute headers, info boxes, etc. Some liken it to a coffee table book, but I'm reminded more of a middle school textbook. I'm glad so many have reviewed this book so highly, and I hope that has translated into many happy gardeners! If you are a Northern gardener, I can see how it could be your "bible." I'd recommend the Square Foot Gardening book by Mel Bartholomew for someone just starting out- or anyone, really, the Southern Living books if you're south of Mason-Dixon, extensive seed catalogs, or even the Ortho series (or something similar you can find at a garden center) before I'd recommend this expensive, weighty tome that is pretty to look at but short of hard, useful info in my opinion. Wish I had known this guy was writing from a Vermont gardening perspective before I bought this book.

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