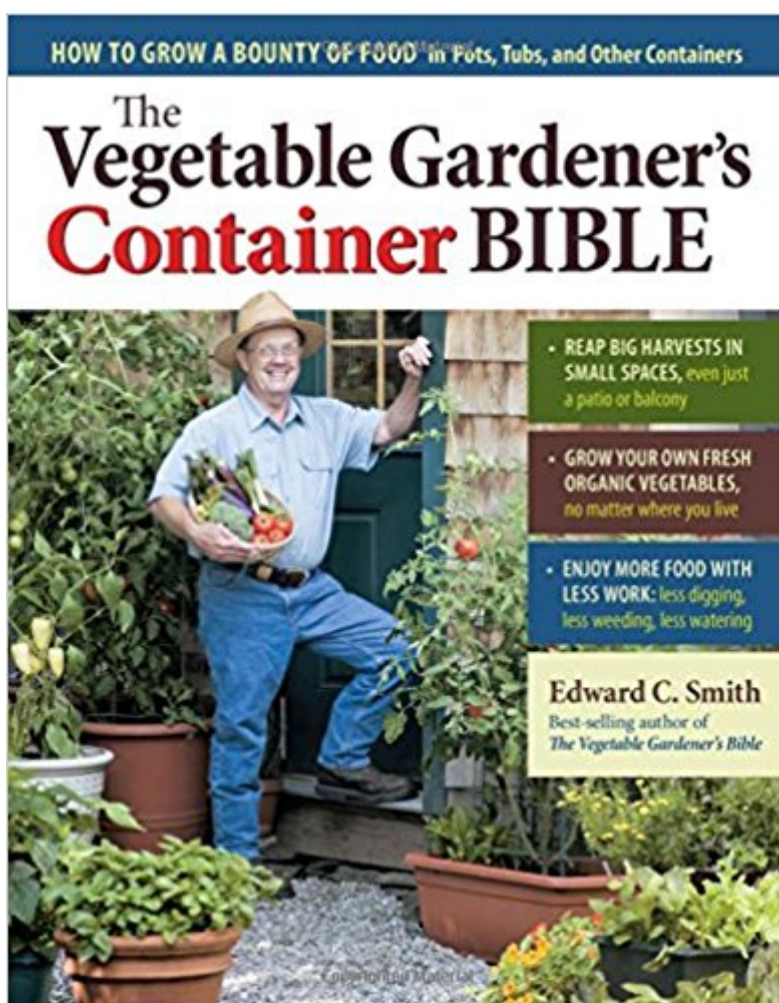


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The Vegetable Gardener's Container Bible: How To Grow A Bounty Of Food In Pots, Tubs, And Other Containers



Synopsis

Harvest tomatoes on a patio, produce a pumpkin in a planter, and grow broccoli on a balcony! Best-selling author Ed Smith shows you everything you need to know to successfully create and care for an edible container garden, from choosing the right plants and selecting appropriate containers through controlling pests without chemicals and harvesting fresh vegetables. You'll discover that container gardening is an easy and fun way to enjoy summer's bounty in even the smallest of growing spaces.

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Storey Publishing, LLC (March 2, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1603429751

ISBN-13: 978-1603429757

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.6 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 199 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #72,886 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique > Container Gardening #34 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Vegetables

Customer Reviews

Starred Review Anyone can grow, harvest, and enjoy homegrown veggies, even without a yard, bestselling garden guru Smith persuasively argues as he presents his step-by-step approach to container gardening. A garden of containers—pots, buckets, found objects—can stand alone or complement an earth garden, with some advantages, including ease of tending, portability, and fewer insect and disease problems. From soil formulas and layouts for three-container gardens on small balconies and porches to transforming five-gallon plastic buckets into self-watering containers, developing artful arrangements, and pruning, Smith's bible will encourage many new vegetable growers. Useful tips for hanging containers to maximize use of vertical space on patios, grouping plants of similar mature sizes and growth rates, and using organic controls are presented as attractive endeavors, beautifully documented in numerous full-color, full-page photos. With an index, suggested reading list, average last-frost dates and hardiness zone maps, and listings of suppliers, Smith's practical, assuring, timely, and handsomely

produced how-to will see brisk traffic. --Whitney Scott --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã Â "With detailed, illustrated advice on selecting and retrofitting containers, cultivation, efficient maintenance, and design plans to pull it all together, Smith's latest guide provides everything needed to grow a bounty of home-grown vegetables." (Booklist)"Anyone can grow, harvest, and enjoy homegrown veggies, even without a yard, best-selling garden guru Smith persuasively argues as he presents his step-by-step approach to container gardening...Smith's practical, assuring, timely, and handsomely produced how-to will see brisk traffic." (Publisher's Weekly)"With detailed, illustrated advice on selecting and retrofitting containers, cultivation, efficient maintenance, and design plans to pull it all together, Smith's latest guide provides everything needed to grow a bounty of home-grown vegetables."

I was hesitant about this book at first. However, after it seemed to start slowly, I was impressed with his discussion of soil preparation, including his container soil mix recipe. I was also pleased with his templates for making self-watering containers. Being as I'm not real handy, his designs are simple enough that I feel confident I can do it. I had the Kindle version, which had a typo in the soil mix recipe: It should simply say 1 Tablespoon of Azomite for micronutrients. However, after examining assays from both Azomite and Maxicrop, I decided to substitute equal amounts of Maxicrop, which also contains plant growth hormones and vitamins that Azomite doesn't have. Azomite is ancient lake bed deposits found primarily in Utah, while Maxicrop is kelp harvested off the 12,000 mile coast of Norway. Kelp is a renewable resource, which I prefer. However, if that's not a concern, I've used Azomite before to good effect. Both supplements are rated for organic gardening. I also had a question about how to amend the soil mix, so I wrote the publisher. Mr. Smith replied through them that if you're using a peat-lite mix already amended with N-P-K supplements, he recommends adding no more fertilizers. This is important, because plants can die from over-fertilizing as well as from malnutrition. In fact, the symptoms may appear similar! Since I mix my own peat-lite soil, I now know how to proceed as I experiment with growing Cole crops in pots this winter. I will mix peat/vermiculite/perlite, amend according to the Cornell recipe, add an equal part compost, then plant. For those interested, here's my organic peat-lite recipe: 8 pints peat, 5 pints vermiculite, 3 pints perlite, 40cc blood meal, 40cc bone meal, 40cc greensand, 35cc dolomite limestone, 6cc Maxicrop powder. The reason I gave 4 stars instead of 5 is because the publisher didn't reformat the book for Kindle. As a result, it's hard associating many photo illustrations with the relevant text. You

may have to page up and down while reading to figure out what picture goes with what text. I highly recommend this book for gardeners looking to expand their knowledge into container growing, or for people with limited space looking to grow some of their own herbs and vegetables. Even experienced gardeners can learn plenty from *The Vegetable Gardener's Container Bible*.

Excellent book! Very readable, with tons of information that is very accessible. He has a great sense of humor, which makes this an enjoyable read, too. I live in a 2nd floor condo with an 8' x 11' balcony. I planted my first seeds on May 25 and, because of his book, I now have a balcony half full of self-watering bins of pepper plants, tomato plants (blossoming!), sweet corn, potato plants, and even cantaloupe plants (also blossoming already!). I purchased a set of 8 Sterilite 18 gal. storage totes and turned them into self-watering tubs based on the directions in his book. I even used a pair of cat litter buckets and turned them into a self-watering bucket, so my 3-year old granddaughter can grow her own pepper plant that I started for her (she was totally jazzed about it!). If you would love to grow something but think you don't have room, get this book, because he makes it very do-able for anywhere that gets some sun. He also gives recommendations on varieties that work well in containers, all based on actual experience of trying them himself. I am so glad I got this one!

great information, very thorough from every type of pot to use, ways to make and get soil, different ways of watering, and what plants work best. it doesn't matter what type of garden you are looking to do, this book covers it. then he even goes into the specifics on each type of plant and how best to grow it. you can't go wrong with this one.

I found this book informative. I garden in containers and have had very good results. This book helped clear up a number of questions I had about container dirt. I look forward to putting my new knowledge into practice.

I have not read it from cover to cover, but have marked the information that is useful right now for my garden. Very nice book, lot of nice pictures too. I have gardened for many years but now that I am in a small place, this is a big help for my garden which I have on my screened in porch.

I have found this book to be extremely helpful with planning my container garden. I'm always looking for ideas and ways to grow more in my challenging back yard. This book has shown me ways to use spots in my yard where I can't actually put a garden bed, but that I could use to put containers to

grow plants in more sun lite areas. Definitely a good book for those who rent, or don't own their home and have a patio or driveway area or balcony they can use.

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