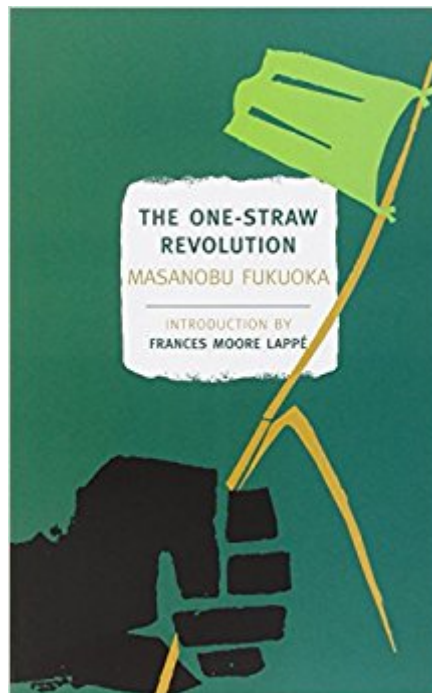




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The One-Straw Revolution: An Introduction To Natural Farming (New York Review Books Classics)



Synopsis

Call it *“Zen and the Art of Farming”* or a *“Little Green Book,”* Masanobu Fukuoka’s manifesto about farming, eating, and the limits of human knowledge presents a radical challenge to the global systems we rely on for our food. At the same time, it is a spiritual memoir of a man whose innovative system of cultivating the earth reflects a deep faith in the wholeness and balance of the natural world. As Wendell Berry writes in his preface, the book *“is valuable to us because it is at once practical and philosophical. It is an inspiring, necessary book about agriculture because it is not just about agriculture.”* Trained as a scientist, Fukuoka rejected both modern agribusiness and centuries of agricultural practice, deciding instead that the best forms of cultivation mirror nature’s own laws. Over the next three decades he perfected his so-called *“do-nothing”* technique: commonsense, sustainable practices that all but eliminate the use of pesticides, fertilizer, tillage, and perhaps most significantly, wasteful effort. Whether you’re a guerrilla gardener or a kitchen gardener, dedicated to slow food or simply looking to live a healthier life, you will find something here • you may even be moved to start a revolution of your own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The One-Straw Revolution is one of the founding documents of the alternative food movement, and indispensable to anyone hoping to understand the future of food and agriculture." •Michael

Pollan "Only the ignorant could write off Fukuoka, who died two years ago at the age of 95, as a deluded or nostalgic dreamer...Fukuoka developed ideas that went against the conventional grain....Long before the American Michael Pollan, he was making the connections between intensive agriculture, unhealthy eating habits and a whole destructive economy based on oil."

--Harry Eyres, The Financial Times "Fukuoka's do-nothing approach to farming is not only revolutionary in terms of growing food, but it is also applicable to other aspects of living, (creativity, child-rearing, activism, career, etc.) His holistic message is needed now more than ever as we search for new ways of approaching the environment, our community and life. It is time for us all to join his 'non-movement.'"

• Keri Smith author of How to be an Explorer of the World "Japan's most celebrated alternative farmer...Fukuoka's vision offers a beacon, a goal, an ideal to strive for."

• Tom Philpott, Grist "The One-Straw Revolution shows the critical role of locally based agroecological knowledge in developing sustainable farming systems."

• Sustainable Architecture "With no ploughing, weeding, fertilizers, external compost, pruning or chemicals, his minimalist approach reduces labour time to a fifth of more conventional practices. Yet his success in yields is comparable to more resource-intensive methods|The method is now being widely adopted to vegetate arid areas. His books, such as The One-Straw Revolution, have been inspirational to cultivators the world over."

• New Internationalist Every now and then you read a book which is so inspiring and such a pleasure that you feel impelled to stride down the street shouting "read this!"

• Well, I've just read The One-Straw Revolution and I urge everyone to buy or borrow a copy without delay.

• Tom Hodgkinson, The Idler

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Japanese --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Like many oriental authors, Masanobu spends much of his writing describing his philosophy. So easily finding out the precise methods he used to obtain the impressive yields of crops he obtained, is difficult. He does provide a brief overview| for example, he uses clover as a perpetual cover crop, straw as mulch, he plants into the cover crop without tillage, (although he weakens the clover by flooding the field in spring) he coats his seeds with clay to prevent them being eaten by birds and animals. But he does not provide detailed accounts. But really this does not matter because his book is a plea to trust nature and work with nature and to honour traditional,

gentle ways of relating to each other and our world. In our frantic, hurried, consumer oriented, greed and profit driven world, I love his inspiring and wise message of living simply with nature

A very enjoyable read. To say this is a book only about philosophy or farming or ecology would not do it justice. While it touches on all of those topics, it's none of them. If you're open to the deeper meaning of texts, not just reading but actually philosophizing and seeking perspective, I think you will gain a lot more from this book than someone who only 'reads words' for their face value. The best I can tell you is, read it. You 'will' gain a new perspective. You're not going to agree with everything here, and some of the wording may offend you, but if you're open, I really do believe you will take something from it.

A whole different way of looking at agriculture. Mostly easy to read, short chapters. Author was way ahead of his time regarding environmental issues and agribusiness use of chemicals destroying the land and the water. He shows that working with nature produces improved soil and water AND better yields with less work.

This is really a wonderful philosophical treatise on mankind's relationship with the earth - what it is and what it could be. It's a agricultural take on our technological hubris when it comes to believing that we can outdo nature and the ecological harm that comes when we engage in these practices at a corporate scale. I really enjoyed the direct application of Buddhist philosophy to mindful farming and the direct evidence he brings to bear in arguing that the way forward is to support agricultural techniques grounded in nature herself, not in man's belief that he can outdo her.

This book was very informative. I found this concept on a YouTube video that based his backyard garden with the knowledge learned from this author. I bought book to re-read and apply in my own gardening. I recommend reading even if you get from the library, but note, there is not too many copies out there, might consider buying it.

What a peaceful kind book! Mr. Fukuoka-san acknowledges nature in its pure form with humans as an integral part of it, not separate from it, certainly not above it!

Appreciate Mr. Fukuoka's recognition that governments and conglomerations will never solve the problems of pollution...they are motivated in the wrong direction entirely.

Frances Moore Lappe's introduction to the One Straw Revolution reads: "...Fukuoka's message is more deeply radical than simply encouraging farmers to forego tilling or spraying; it cuts to the core of our understanding of ourselves and our place on this earth." The book does offer up some really interesting philosophies about the food we eat, the leisure time we've lost, commercialisation of our food supply and how we keep trying to find engineering and chemical solutions to problems...rather than just seeing the problem for what it really is. I liked the book/manifesto for its gentleness, wisdom and clarity, and for the reason that he didn't claim to have all the answers...but geez, he did pony up some ideas that made me think including his belief that trees should not be pruned and his special approach called "do nothing farming" that saw him year after year out-yield "conventional" ie: chemical farmers. "Do nothing farming" doesn't mean you get to be lazy - so if you're looking for a book of gardening and agricultural shortcuts you won't find it here - but that you use what you have available to work with nature rather than against her. If you're a farmer like us at Honeycomb Valley Farm, a gardener or just care about the environment and the food you eat, this is a thoughtful book you'll definitely get something out of.

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