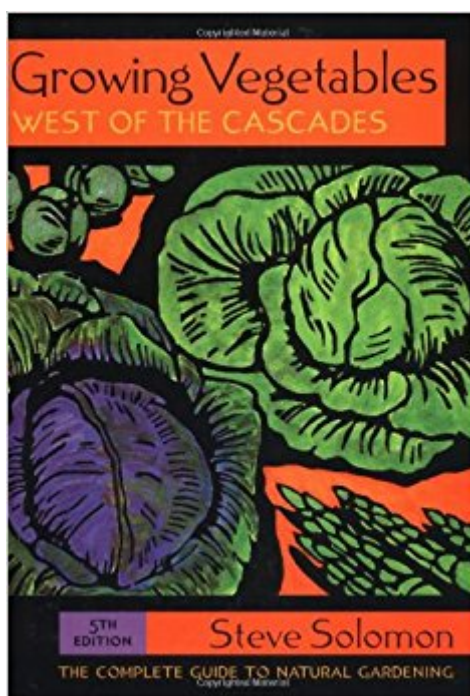


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Growing Vegetables West Of The Cascades: The Complete Guide To Natural Gardening



Synopsis

Here's a fully revised edition of this regional bestseller- considered to be the definitive food gardening manual for the Pacific Northwest. This is the bible of vegetable gardening for anyone turning the soil west of the Cascade Mountains-from Western British Columbia to Northern California. It includes the basics of soil, when best to plant, the art of composting, what varieties grow well here, which seed companies are reliable, information on handling pests, and an extensive section on the cultivation of each vegetable.

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Customer Reviews

Steve Solomon started the Territorial Seed Company and became a recognized expert on organic vegetable gardening. He has gardened in California and Oregon, and he continues to research the art and science of vegetable gardening.

Steve Solomon, who founded Territorial Seed Company in 1980, is arguably the world's leading authority on non-commercial-scale organic vegetable gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Solomon has experimented with all of the variables in vegetable gardening, in our mild Maritime climate, and he reports the results with an admirable degree of honesty and integrity. His book - plus the Territorial Seed catalog - is all that's needed to achieve excellent garden results (for the first few years) with the least input of capital and labor. That said, I've gardened in Seattle for 15 years, and Mr. Solomon's book has two serious flaws: 1. As other reviewers have noted, Mr. Solomon is dismissive of city gardening on a 200 or 400-square-foot plot. The city gardener must sift through

many chapters of advice that applies only to homestead gardens of 1/2 acre or more.² After a few years the organic gardener will begin to experience mysterious crop failures - seeds that fail to germinate. Mr. Solomon attributes this failure to symphytan infestation - I suspect that soil-borne seed pathogens (Pythium, Rhizoctonia, etc.) may also play a part - but in any case, this book does not offer any viable solution for the CITY gardener. We city gardeners can hardly afford to garden on only half of our too-small plot, leaving the other half fallow for 3 or 4 years, waiting for the soil to return to equilibrium. (The Seattle Tilth trial gardens have suffered this fate, with no solution in sight.)

The first time I read this book, I glazed over the section on soils (too involved - I originally thought). The rest of the book was far more interesting since I was more concerned about the best watering techniques, laying out the garden, organic methods, specific instructions for different crops, etc. Since then I've read the soils section at least a half dozen times and am astounded at how simple the formulas are and what a difference it can make. This is a book that will be referenced over and over again.

As beginning with territorial seeds Steve Solomon does a great resource for the organic gardener...ideal location information with lots of great tips. I highly recommend it.

I love this book. It is so helpful in giving you hints on growing all sorts of vegetables. Especially valuable to me is the author's "super fertilizer mix" (my words) in which he suggests combinations of natural ingredients to supplement the soil. It works! Now, I mix his formula up and put in old garbage cans so I can always have it on hand to give my little veggies. And do they ever appreciate their "treats"! I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in gardening successfully and doing it in a respectful manner.

This is exactly perfect to where I garden, very well written and full of fascinating information! I'm so glad I found this.

Gardening in the Pacific Northwest has its own challenges; it's not just a matter of adjusting planting dates, and choosing varieties with the fewest days to maturity, and praying like Joshua for the sun to stand still when it's 75 and sunny. I do nothing in my garden without first consulting this book. The author, Steve Solomon, appears to have tested every technique out there, and he explains not just

what has succeeded but why other methods have not succeeded as well--particularly those methods championed by gardeners in other parts of the country. It's a little like sitting in on a courteous but energetic debate. You will learn: how to manage your soil and keep it fertile the organic way; how to plan your garden, whether you only want to grow summertime favorites or aim for year-round self-sufficiency; which varieties do best, and how to cultivate them; what an experienced seedman has to say about seeds; and how to irrigate--or how not to, if you want to experiment with dry-gardening (yes, dry-gardening in the Northwest!). Solomon writes clearly and cuts through a lot of complexity--or to put it better, illustrates that there is a certain style of simplicity that produces a fuller and richer complexity.

Solomon's guide is not only hugely informative, it's also fun to read and I have termed him to friends as the gonzo gardener. He will guide you through soil preparation, best vegetable varieties, fertilizing and composting. We have 1/3 acre and we have dedicated certain areas to gardening and have really enjoyed our successes (and learned from our failures). The organic fertilizer recipe given by Solomon is very good and we have only really needed to supplement my tomatoes with Dr. Earth tomato/vegetable for its calcium content. This guide is ambitious yes but I wasn't put off by it as a novice gardener and now that I am the garden expert of my friends I am happy to recommend it. This book will guide you through the basics as well as the details of organic gardening in the maritime Northwest.

I've only been gardening for a year or so, but in that short time I've read more than my share of gardening books and advice online. Mr. Solomon's book is a great inspiration -- he provides no-nonsense, practical, honest advice about how to plan for and expect the best from your garden. After reading this, I finally feel mentally equipped to get the most from my backyard. However, I'll agree with another reviewer: this book has a definite "homestead" bent which doesn't apply well to us city folk. While the self-sufficiency angle is interesting and doesn't lead to any irrelevant tangents, it would be nice for a chapter or two on planning and management for small (less than 200 square feet) gardens. Maybe in the next edition? The book is well-organized, and the writing is pleasant and easy to follow. If you live in western Oregon, Washington, or BC, then this book is a must-read.

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