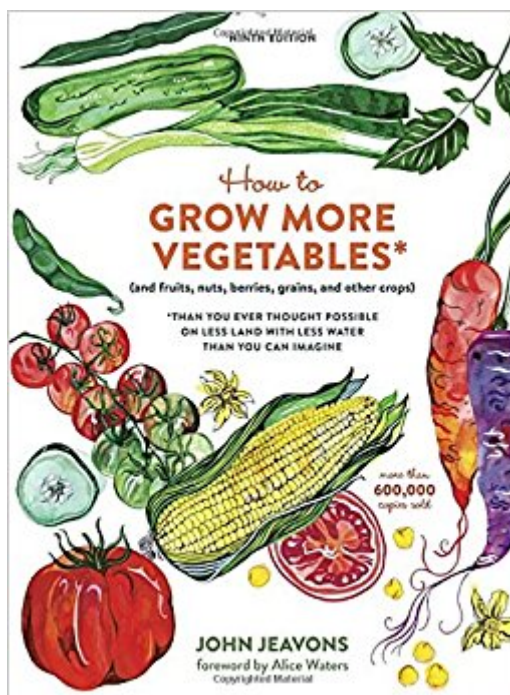


The book was found

How To Grow More Vegetables, Ninth Edition: (and Fruits, Nuts, Berries, Grains, And Other Crops) Than You Ever Thought Possible On Less Land With Less Water Than You Can Imagine



Synopsis

The world's leading resource on biointensive, sustainable, high-yield organic gardening is thoroughly updated throughout, with new sections on using 12 percent less water and increasing compost power. Long before it was a trend, *How to Grow More Vegetables* brought backyard ecosystems to life for the home gardener by demonstrating sustainable growing methods for spectacular organic produce on a small but intensive scale. *How to Grow More Vegetables* has become the go-to reference for food growers at every level, whether home gardeners dedicated to nurturing backyard edibles with minimal water in maximum harmony with nature's cycles, or a small-scale commercial producer interested in optimizing soil fertility and increasing plant productivity. In the ninth edition, author John Jeavons has revised and updated each chapter, including new sections on using less water and increasing compost power.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *How to Grow More Vegetables*: "Possibly the most detailed explanation of the intensive gardening method available." [New York Times](#) "John's methods are nothing short of miraculous." [Alice Waters](#), author, *Slow Food* crusader, and founder of *Chez Panisse* "There are two kinds of vegetable gardeners--those who garden in beds of some kind and for whom this is the ultimate foundation book, a must-read, and an essential reference. Then there are those who don't garden in beds, for whom it's still a must-read and an essential reference. The full title...actually understates the contents. The book is about how to grow pretty nearly all your food

and your garden's fertilizer on a modest amount of land." — Carol Deppe, author of *The Resilient Gardener: Food Production and Self-Reliance in Uncertain Times* a masterpiece. — Alan Chadwick, master horticulturist

JOHN JEAUVONS is the director of Ecology Action, an environmental research and education organization that has been working to revolutionize small-scale food production through biointensive growing around the world since 1972. To learn more, visit growbiointensive.org.

For those wondering about differences between this ninth edition and the previous eighth edition: there are not many differences, and no major ones as far as I can tell. Concerning the Kindle edition: one of the biggest draws of this book is the "Master Charts" section in the back. Because these charts are designed as images, they do not appear properly on the Kindle, nor even on the Kindle for PC app. The text is far too small and there is little way (outside of doing some relatively obnoxious technical work) to make the charts highly legible. I would STRONGLY suggest buying the paperback version instead, until the Kindle version is fixed. This book is a great beginning guide to planting and mini-farming. The "Grow Biointensive" method is quite good and has worked well for my large garden for years. One of the best aspects of this book is the "Master Charts" section, which describes various details about countless plants and vegetables. It's a fantastic resource, one I use over and over again. The downsides of the book are as follows:

1. There is far too much wasted space on the "Grow Biointensive" method and what reads like a massive sales/advertising pitch. This pitch is relegated not merely to the introduction, which would be fine; instead, it is sprinkled throughout the entire book, often showing up in later chapters and essentially wasting the reader's time. The book would be FAR better if the "Grow Biointensive" environmentalism statements were all kept in the introduction, and if the chapters themselves were designed to showcase just the need-to-know information about how to follow the farming method.
2. Delving into the method further, as I have for the past years, highlights many big questions and unclear statements within this book. For example, take the case of a dwarf fruit tree, which according to the Master Charters, requires 64 square feet of space. A typical Grow Biointensive bed is 5 foot by 20 foot or longer. Also, plants are arranged into a bed in hexagonal spacing. The question then becomes, what is the best way to plant such a fruit tree? Well, who knows. Is the farmer supposed to double-dig essentially a MASSIVE bed in a giant hexagonal shape with a single fruit tree in the center? Is the fruit tree fine within a 5x20 bed? There are many other sections which require clarification like this, far too many to mention, in fact; here are just a couple more. When rotating crops, it's unclear if the

"Grass" family "counts" for rotation purposes or not. (In an email to Ecology Action a year or so ago, I was told that the "Grass" family was an exception to the regular rotation rules, and that this would be clarified in the at-the-time upcoming ninth edition. As far as I can tell, it is not clarified here.)

Another issue is compost; the book spends much time discussing various compost pile practices, but does not thoroughly discuss other composting methods that are popular now (such as hugelkultur and burying a mixture of green/brown materials straight into the garden beds, or thorough mulching as in the "Back to Eden" or lasagna gardening systems). It would be great to know how these alternative methods to composting compare in efficacy and efficiency to the Grow Biointensive compost piles. Overall, there is solid information in here, especially for a new gardener. However, too little has changed in this 9th edition to warrant recommending its purchase to anyone who already owns the previous edition(s).

Thanks to NetGalley and Ten Speed Press for the opportunity to read and review *How to Grow More Vegetables*, ninth edition, by John Jeavons. *How to Grow More Vegetables* should possibly be named *How to Grow More Crops*. This gardening instructional guide covers soil preparation, creation and upkeep; composting; soil fertilization and nutrition; planting with seeds and/or plants; companion planting; crop rotation; insect control; garden charts, plans and tools. The book is based on the GROW BIOINTENSIVE Method of gardening and is a more complex instructional gardening book than I need, but is still very helpful; 4 stars.*I received a complimentary copy of this book for voluntary review consideration.

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