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McGee & Stuckey's Bountiful Container: Create Container Gardens Of Vegetables, Herbs, Fruits, And Edible Flowers



Synopsis

With few exceptions-such as corn and pumpkins-everything edible that's grown in a traditional garden can be raised in a container. And with only one exception-watering-container gardening is a whole lot easier. Beginning with the down-to-earth basics of soil, sun and water, fertilizer, seeds and propagation, *The Bountiful Container* is an extraordinarily complete, plant-by-plant guide. Written by two seasoned container gardeners and writers, *The Bountiful Container* covers Vegetables-not just tomatoes (17 varieties) and peppers (19 varieties), buttharicots verts, fava beans, Thumbelina carrots, Chioggia beets, and sugarsnap peas. Herbs, from basil to thyme, and including bay leaves, fennel, and saffron crocus. Edible Flowers, such as begonias, calendula, pansies, violets, and roses. And perhaps most surprising, Fruits, including apples, peaches, Meyer lemons, blueberries, currants, and figs-yes, even in the colder parts of the country. (Another benefit of container gardening: You can bring the less hardy perennials in over the winter.) There are theme gardens (an Italian cook's garden, a Four Seasons garden), lists of sources, and dozens of sidebars on everything from how to be a human honeybee to seeds that are All America Selections.

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Customer Reviews

McGee (*Basic Herb Cookery*) and veteran gardening writer Stuckey (*Gardening from the Ground Up*) share their expertise and experience in the art of container gardening. Armed with this manual, frustrated apartment dwellers can indulge their passion for growing edible things. If there is an available balcony, porch, front or back steps, according to the authors, growing produce in containers can be easy and rewarding. With some limitations, it is even possible to grow foods in a window box or on an indoor windowsill. This compendium of practical advice includes detailed

information on the types of containers to use, equipment needed, the right soil, when to plant which seeds and how best to deal with problems such as too much or too little sunlight. They also explain more sophisticated techniques like succession planting, whereby ongoing seasonal planting takes place in the same container. This can yield a harvest of peas in early summer, tomatoes in late summer to early fall and kale that will grow into winter. Included are mouth-watering recipes for harvested container crops. Written for the beginner as well as for those with a background in gardening, McGee and Stuckey's directions are comprehensive, clearly written and frequently inspiring. Illus.

Clear and easy directions: Vegetables for every season: 21 varieties of beans, including favas and haricots verts; peppers from sweet orange Valencias to fiery Thai Dragons (a scorcher at 60,000 Scoville units); dwarf eggplants; fingerling potatoes; 17 terrific tomatoes; lettuces; and Asian greens like bok choy, mizuna, and Chinese kale. Herbs, including basil green and purple, exotic lemongrass, soothing chamomile, saffron crocus, and the essential culinary herbs such as parsley, rosemary, sage, tarragon, and the many thymes. Fruits: Meyer lemons, strawberries, gooseberries, figs, and even apples, peaches, and grapes. And edible flowers, like tart begonias, pepper nasturtiums, clove-spicy dianthus, and sweet daylilies, to add enchantment to meals. Complete with all the basics of choosing the right containers, determining soil types, applying fertilizers, and knowing when to start from seed and when to start from seedling.

I am in love with this book. I just wanted a book to help me out with my vegetable gardening goals. I'm working with raised container gardens and some pots on my deck, and yet I have kind of unrealistically ambitious plans. Turns out I'm not so unrealistic as I thought! I almost bought a different book, but one of the reviews of THAT book told me to buy this book. I took a chance---so glad I did. I find this book to be very well-organized, practical, pleasant to look at, and included just enough information (and the stuff I wanted/needed to know). On the spectrum of gardeners, I'm somewhere between beginner and intermediate. I'm so excited about my garden's potential this year thanks to this book!

I have grown herbs and many kinds of veggies in containers for years, enjoy doing so and learning more. So many container gardening books are about containers--really cool objects used as pots happened upon at, say, a second-hand shop. This is not that kind of book. This book covers a broad range of topics (yes, containers), but mostly particular varieties of plants the two authors have

had success with, keeping the soil healthy, a few recipes, a few line drawings, seasonal and geographic variables. The book is a tiny bit quirky in that every so often the individual voices of the authors come through if their experiences are different. The book is not dry and encyclopedic but rather full of good advice and the shared experience of two people who clearly like to grow all kinds of things in pots. For example, I never considered apple trees. The authors let the reader know what the possibilities are and what would preclude this as a good idea for some places.

This book is a great resource for those of us wishing to grow things in containers. I am not a gardener, but I like to grow little vegetables and herbs. This book is well arranged, covers all the topics I need, and has an index for handy reference. Being fairly new to the hobby and wishing to know more, I can say this book provided just what I needed. Don't hesitate to order it if you are looking for a basic reference!

Clever ideas, and details for those of us with 'black' (heavy sigh) thumbs, combine their expertise with the new water saver pots (that hold water for days in the base, and make care so much easier) can't wait for garden season.

I've never gardened before (no, not even house plants) and this was an excellent resource for me. I like that it is straight forward but not dumbed-down - it truly teaches you about gardening so you can learn the terms and think through the possibilities/options. I imagine this would be a good resource for even more experienced gardeners who are perhaps looking to try growing something different or who want ideas for ways to put various plants together. I loved the information up front about sunlight requirements, watering, and container selection. The authors offer insight and guidance but also encourage the reader's own creativity. The book is well organized and there are even ideas for theme gardens and recipes interspersed throughout. The only thing I would change is having the recipes in the index under 'Recipes' so readers can find them more easily (the theme gardens are listed under 'Theme Gardens' in the index as well as under the specific plants in those theme gardens, so if you look up Radishes one of the items listed there is 'in A Kid's Garden theme garden'). I used this book to make a list of what would grow based on the amount of sunlight I have, season, etc. and a list of supplies, and then took the book with me to the nursery to pick out plants. I have my first container going and I refer to this book daily.

This book is a great reference for anyone with limited space to garden, or wants to try their hand at

growing food in containers. I live in a townhouse, so a traditional garden is not an option for me. Container gardening has advantages and disadvantages over traditional (in-the-ground) gardening, and the authors do a good job of explaining the benefits and limitations of growing food in containers. One of the things I like most about this book is that it's in black-and-white and there are none of those glossy, color pictures that really add nothing to the book but the cost. The book is encyclopedic in its information and thoroughly discusses each type of plant, its varieties, what type of container works best, and its basic maintenance. They even include some recipes. I've had lots of success growing food in containers over the last four seasons, and this book has helped me greatly. So far, I've grown rhubarb, tomatoes, various herbs, mint, kale, chard, and strawberries to name a few things. Even a friend of mine who's an outstanding gardener is impressed by my container gardens. I highly recommend this book and think you will be surprised at how much you can do with limited space.

This is a fantastic book, because it covers many, many, kinds of veggies and herbs, it tells you which varieties to buy for your best chances for success, and how tall and wide they will eventually get (so that you can judge how much should go into each container in the first place....which is VERY important for containers), and it also has excellent references in there for places where you can buy the suggested seed/plant varieties. I especially like how the authors tell you what certain plants love to eat--so that you can be sure to group plants that have similar diets, thirst levels, and sunlight cravings together. I've followed the author's advice and my "Boozy Herb Garden" is doing great! (I'm growing cocktail-oriented herbs).

Okay, I've only read to page 13, but I'm already hooked. Ladies, if you're looking for a helpful but delightful read as well, this may be it. The authors feel like real people, like friends. Their book doesn't overwhelm me like many gardening books do. Instead, it seems to be very do-able. I'm not a gardener (yet), but I hope to be soon. I'm dreaming of a salad/herb garden, some mini peppers, cherry tomatoes, baby cukes, radishes and carrots. Can't wait. So glad I ordered the book.

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