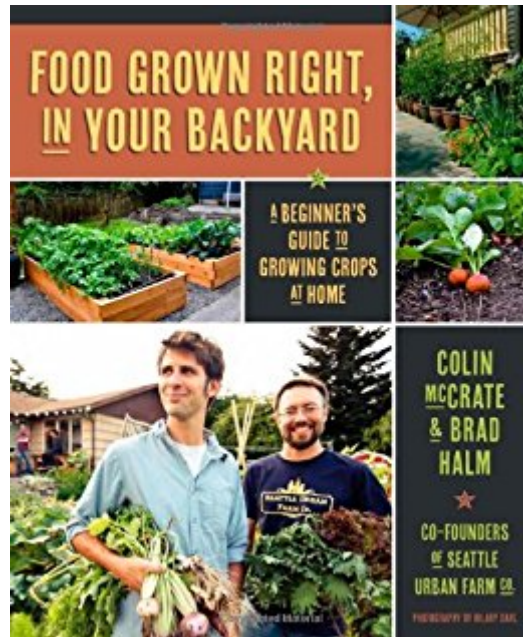


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Food Grown Right In Your Backyard



Synopsis

As the founders behind the Seattle Urban Farm Company, Colin McCrate and Brad Halm have heard it all: My backyard is too small; how can I make space for a garden? Do I really need to buy fertilizer? What on earth is that creature crawling on the tomatoes? My crops took off and the zucchini are in the sidewalk who has time to harvest this all?! **FOOD GROWN RIGHT, IN YOUR BACKYARD** is a primer for these questions and more. In response to the rising interest in homegrown foods, the Seattle Urban Farm Co. builds vegetable gardens for everyone from busy families to restaurants. Along the way, Colin and Brad teach beginner growers from all walks of life the techniques of organic food production. In this full color, beautifully photographed guide, they prove that anyone can develop a green thumb, as they show readers how to build a garden from the ground up, explain general garden basics, discuss the best types of crops to try, and much more.

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Customer Reviews

I dabble at gardening. That is, I have several vegetable and herb plants, and some do well and some don't. I read gardening books and yet still feel unprepared. And then I found Food Grown

Right, in Your Backyard. It's more conversational than other gardening books. It starts off with a few garden plans, gets into building your garden, balancing your soil, fertilizers, all the usual stuff. But they have some stuff that I had never seen before that I'm sure expert gardeners know, things like cleaning your pots with a diluted bleach or hydrogen peroxide mixture before replanting. They talk a lot about water and drip systems, which I found really helpful. And there is an entire section dedicated to specific veg, what they like, what they don't like, how to take care of them. I live in the southeast so I had to look at the book clearly to make sure that it wasn't just about the Pacific Northwest area and it's not. Their techniques and guidelines apply to gardens everywhere. This book made me start planning out where I want my garden to be and how I can get there. It rocks.

I was very impressed by the quality of this book. Brad and Colin clearly have a great deal of experience and knowledge about growing food, especially in the northwestern United States, and it looks like they've tried to share it all! The book caters to a wide range of experience; it is a suitable introduction for beginners, but the reference sections probably have information that would be new to most seasoned gardeners. Stylistically, the book keeps things fresh by moving between different ways of addressing the reader as the material dictates. Sometimes, the book is textbook. Other times, it is a series of anecdotes. Still other times, it is a Socratic dialog. For me, this made the book a lot easier to read and kept my attention through information that could have been easy to overlook. The latter half of the book is more of a reference, making its way through dozens of plants and pests, and giving solutions to many common garden problems. Visually, the book is beautifully laid out and Hilary has done a fantastic job with the photography, which appears on nearly every page. As an amateur gardener, I'm thrilled with this book. My gardening books from the 80's are nice, but it is great to have a modern urban gardening reference from people who clearly know their stuff!

This book is definitely a go to and a must for the novice to advanced gardener. In depth detail down to troubleshooting advice for if the crops start to turn funky colors or have a pest problem. Gives you great layout ideas for all seasons so that crop rotation is easily managed. Would advise any beginner gardener such as myself to pick up this book and study from cover to cover!!!!

I buy and read tons and tons of books but almost never write reviews...too lazy. But I really love this book and I'm so impressed with how useful it is for my new found gardening passion. It's a great, compact, and beautiful reference book. Concise yet contains all the useful information any novice

gardener need for each common plant in an edible garden. Particularly useful to me are the plant profiles for each plant that are packed with information in just a couple of pages. For example: suggestions of how much of each type to plant (having never gardened before, I have no idea how much, say, a cucumber plant, will produce each week), suggested schedules of successive planting, expected number of days it takes each kind of seed to germinate at each temperature bracket (an information I haven't seen in other books), etc., etc. Photos are gorgeous. Best gardening book of it's type that I've read. The authors did a great job!

I have always wanted to plant a veggie garden, but haven't had the space until recently. I'm putting in a raised bed garden this year and was looking for a book that would simplify "garden knowledge" and give me lots of visual ideas. I also wanted a book that was somewhat relevant to the Pacific Northwest and covered Organic gardening. I have nearly zero garden knowledge by the way. I looked through a few garden books before selecting this one. This had the most visuals of books I looked through. After reading it I was impressed by the simplicity and ease of reading. I usually only had time for one chapter each time I opened the book, which took about 10-20 minutes each. I love the color photographs in each chapter. They were really helpful in illustrating the topics. The book covers the basics, planning, selecting and preparing a location, building planting boxes from scratch or raised beds, container (i.e. pots) gardening, planting and managing your crops through all season/problems, and selecting what crops to grow. It's clear these guys write from personal experiences. Although the authors are from the Pacific Northwest I think the book would apply to most any climate and they seem to write the book in a way that doesn't alienate any climate. The entire book was dedicated to the concept of Organic gardening so there was nothing that covered the use of chemicals or other unnatural products. Armed with the ideas and knowledge from the book I felt confident in my ability to get started. I don't always get that feeling with "do-it-yourself" books, but this one did a great job. I quickly and easily selected a sunny location in my yard that would fit one of the recommended raised bed sizes. I made a crude drawing of what I wanted, acquired second-hand a few of the recommended garden tools, hit the hardware store and I am off and running.

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