



Build a Better Vegetable Garden: 30 DIY Projects to Improve your Harvest

Joyce Russell, Ben Russell

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Following on from the hugely successful Polytunnel Book, Joyce and Ben Russell have devised 30 kitchen garden projects that anyone can make and enjoy. Not only do the projects add decorative detail to the garden, each project is devised to either extend the season, protect crops from pests or improve yields. Apart from the obvious cost-savings benefits from growing or making your own, the desire to work with craft fulfils the need to keep improving your patch of land. These compelling projects transform your vegetable plot into somewhere more productive, more attractive and more secure.

From simple projects for cloches, tunnels and frames to design solutions that deter slugs and carrot root fly, these projects are well-designed as well as decorative. Each project includes step-by-step instructions as well as a list of materials and tools you'll need and a relative skills rating. Accompanying each project are growing tips and specific crop advice to help you make the most of your crop. To be enjoyed by gardeners of all levels and anyone who loves growing their own.

Projects include: Leaf mould container; simple cloche; fruit cage; bean support; herb bed; folding bean frame; raised bed; poly cloche; plant propagator; boot scraper; mini greenhouse; drying cabinet; carrot fly protector; compost bins.

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From Reader Review Build a Better Vegetable Garden: 30 DIY Projects to Improve your Harvest for online ebook

Terry Pearson says

Speaking as a woman who knows something about gardening, this book is 2 THUMBS UP. I also dabble in minor building projects so throw in another thumb.

First on my agenda - build the double compost bin which I plan on doing in a few weeks. Oh and I will be building it by myself. No man involved! Tools and building materials are listed in the book (for each and every project) as are detailed instructions. Really, unless you don't read or just skim over the instructions as I've come to realize is a man's inherent trait*, there's no excuse in doing it incorrectly. Also included are photographs of each step which is helpful for those who are a "hands on" learner. Tips for making great compost are next. It's not as easy as just throwing in your garbage and debris.

I want to make all 30 of these projects because they look so elementary but when it comes down to it, I don't need all of them. I will be making the Lean-to also. The instructions call for a polyethylene film to cover the lean-to which I couldn't agree with more. We used it in manufacturing our greenhouses. An alternative would be fiberglass but I prefer the film.

The best part of the entire book is that it's gender friendly and the projects difficulty level would be a maximum of 3 which is really nice.

* My humor is not intended to offend.

Mary says

Lots of great ideas, but my space is too small for some of these. Would like to try out the wooden trays sometime. Just wish I had more time to create projects like this that are reusable year after year.

Jan says

I marked 5 or 6 of these projects to try this Spring. They seem totally doable, we'll see how it goes.

Sheryl Normandeau says

Whether you're an experienced gardener or a newbie, there are projects in Build a Better Vegetable Garden that can get you growing in no time: setting up a raised hoop tunnel, designing and constructing a raised bed, building your own wooden planters, creating a cold frame, or making a trellis for climbing beans. Other projects you may not have immediately thought of include making your own seed trays (and dibber!), a storage rack for your tools, a wire support for raspberries, a handy trug, a cabinet with trays for drying the harvest, and a beautiful decorative obelisk. The best part about this book is you don't need to be a certified

woodworker or metalworker to do any of these projects. You don't need specialized tools (most can be done with a basic drill, a couple of types of saws, some hand tools and hardware you can easily pick up and afford). Nearly all of the projects are made from wood. And the instructions are straightforward, easy to understand, and very clearly photographed so you're not guessing at any stage of the project. I really think this book would be a fantastic gift for a new gardener or homeowner – and I actually think it would very useful for anyone setting up a community garden or allotment as well. Highly recommended

Amberwench says

Clear pictures, supply lists, and instructions. Several of the projects are variations on a theme (two different flower boxes, two flower boxes on legs, two raised beds, two row covers). Overall, simple ideas a handy gardener can alter to suit their needs. Photo based index at the front of the book needs to be standard in all project books!
