



Allotments - recommended reading

Here's a recommended reading list for allotment growers, covering everything from practical gardening tips to sustainable practices:

General gardening advice

The Green Gardening Handbook: Grow, Eat and Enjoy by Nancy Birtwhistle

Eco-friendly tips that will help you make the most of your space, and what it can grow. Whether you have a sprawling garden, a modest patch of grass or just a spare windowsill, The Green Gardening Handbook has over 100 tips that will help you embrace the joy of growing and eating from your own garden.

Kew Answers for Everyday Gardeners by the experts at Kew Gardens.

Solves all your gardening conundrums, from pest control to pruning, and wildlife to weather management.

The Money-Saving Garden Year: by Anya Lautenbach

A Month-by-month Guide to a Great Garden that costs less, with month-by-month advice on what to do when - from self-sown seedlings to spot, the best time to propagate different plants, and seasonal pruning jobs - Anya shows you how to keep your garden looking good without breaking the bank. Handy monthly plant lists, money-saving tips, propagation chart, and planting calendar guide.

RHS Grow Your Own Veg Through the Year: by The Royal Horticultural Society

Plan smart, grow sustainably and eat healthily with home grown crops for every day of the year. With practical advice to produce healthy harvests from any size plot.

Seasonal Planting in Garden Design: A Guide to Creating Year-Round Colour and Structure: by Catherine Heatherington

Designing a garden in harmony with the seasons celebrates the aesthetics of each month, creating a garden that not only benefits the people and wildlife that inhabit it but nurtures the planet by encouraging biodiversity and climate-adaptive planting. In this book.

Grow Your Own, Eat Your Own Hardcover: by Bob Flowerdew.

It is one thing to produce tomatoes or pumpkins - or any other fruit or vegetable for pleasure, or for the table, as it comes into season, but it becomes another when you realise that most crops in the garden arrive in gluts with no more to be had for another year - unless you do something about it. This book is about how to make the best use of your home-grown produce.

Organic and sustainable practices

The Resilient Garden and Allotment Handbook: by Sally Morgan

Enrich your soil, manage pests and diseases and boost biodiversity without toxic chemicals and synthetic fertilisers. Create a thriving garden or allotment that works in harmony with nature and will flourish in the face of ever-changing environmental conditions.

Permaculture Gardening Book for Beginners: by Amelia Greenthumb

A Comprehensive guide on building a sustainable permaculture system. In an ever-increasing collapsing society, there is a need for everyone to become self-sufficient, reliable and sustainable. With costs of living on the steady increase you will need a way to cater for you and your family, and that's where permaculture gardening comes into play.

Permaculture: by Maya Blackwell

Permaculture is a way of farming, gardening, or managing land for sustainable food that emphasizes a reciprocal relationship with nature. It's also a way of living that has countless benefits for both individual and collective well-being and is an essential tool in the fight of our lives: tackling the climate crisis.

Organic Crops in Pots: by Deborah Schneebeli-Morrell

Get the best out of any type of garden without spending a fortune, whether it's a small window box or a hard patio, brilliant guide to growing crops in pots. Using containers or pots as a base for your gardening is so versatile - try making an eye-catching design feature by growing nasturtiums in a galvanized mop bucket or grow parsley and basil on your window ledge in a kitchen colander.

Pest and disease management

The Organic Pest Control Handbook: Marries-Esther Lloyd

Nurturing a Bountiful Garden Naturally. A comprehensive guide, to discover a treasure trove of organic pest control methods that will transform your garden into a haven of natural beauty and abundance. From identifying common garden pests to harnessing the power of beneficial insects, this handbook equips you with the knowledge and tools to nurture your garden in harmony with nature.

Speciality gardens

Grow your Own Fruit and Veg: by Alan Titchmarsh

A comprehensive guide will tell you everything you need to know about fruit and veg and how to grow it, from herbs, baby veg, salads, and every-day fruits to gourmet and unusual varieties. As well as providing the key facts needed to yield good results and what to do when things go wrong, the text is sprinkled with Alan's personal observations, anecdotes, culinary tips and quirky historical uses.

The Herb Gardening Handbook: by Andrew Perry

The Herb Growing Handbook gives you the know-how of what herbs to buy, what to plant them with, how to use them and even how to make herbs look good, no matter the space.

Grow Herbs: By Dorling & Kingsley

Essential Know-How and Expert Advice for Gardening Success. Tonnes of tips and tricks to sow, grow, plant and propagate a diverse range of herbs, from parsley to peppermint, bay leaves to basil.

Fruit: By Dorling & Kingsley Holly Farrell

A must-have volume for first-time gardeners, Grow Fruit has tons of tips and tricks to sow, grow, plant and propagate a diverse range of fruit, from plums to persimmons, blackcurrants to blueberries, this grower's guide truly has it all! Try your hand at more than 40 different varieties of fruit trees, bushes, canes and vines, including allotment plot staples such as damsons and blackcurrants, as well as lesser-grown options like kiwis and pineapple guavas.

Vegetables and Herbs for the Greenhouse and Polytunnel Paperback: by Klaus Laitenberger

With our unpredictable weather, there's never been a better time to cultivate vegetables under shelter. Experienced grower, Klaus Laitenberger shows how to use the heat and shelter of a greenhouse or polytunnel to maximise crop production and supply tasty, healthy food throughout the year. He gives full details of sowing, planting, spacing and harvesting for all our best-loved herbs and vegetables.

Growing Vegetables and Fruit Around the Year: by Jonathan Edwards

A Calendar of Monthly Tasks for the Kitchen Garden with over 350 Photographs and 80 Step-by-Step Techniques.

Organic Fruit Gardener, The Paperback: by Yvonne Cuthbertson

What could be better than the enjoyment of tasting your own sweet, succulent, home-grown fruit? Most people have got room to grow some kind of fruit - whether it be a small apple tree in a front garden, a grape vine up a trellis or strawberries in a window box

Community and inspiration

Rebel Gardening: by Alessandro Vitale

A beginner's Handbook to organic urban Gardening, anyone can grow a garden of delicious organic fruit and vegetables, wildlife-friendly wildflowers and abundant herbs in absolutely any urban space with a bit of know-how.

Nettles and Petals: by Jamie Walton

Grow Food. Eat Weeds. Save Seeds: Full of essential information and inviting imagery, this accessible guide provides a holistic and ecological approach to gardening and vegetable growing. With a focus on biodiversity, soil health, and the creation of balanced ecosystems, Nettles and Petals is a must-read for any budding gardener.

Planning and design

Vertical Gardening: by Martin Staffler

Green ideas for small gardens, balconies and patios. Vertical gardening offers great opportunities to grow flowers, vegetables, succulents and herbs, particularly for those with a balcony, patio or compact garden. It can also be a fantastic way to showcase creative and sustainable design choices, whether you've got wood, terracotta pots, burlap sacks, fabric or even plastic bottles.

Designing and Planting Small Gardens: Peter McHoy

A Practical Guide to successful Gardening in Smaller Spaces, from planning the layout and plants with examples of garden styles and advice on how to draw up a garden plan.

Allotments

Allotment Gardening: by Susan Berger

The definitive beginner's guide to setting up and maintaining an organic allotment garden. Whether you're looking to acquire your first allotment plot or are completely new to growing, this friendly guide is packed with helpful gardening advice to grow a variety of plants.

Rekha's Kitchen Garden: by Rekha Mistry

Seasonal Produce and Home-Grown Wisdom from One Gardener's Allotment Year. This isn't your average introduction to growing your own vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Packed with personality and stunning photography, this is a celebration of more than 40 seasonal crops that will inspire you to make the most of your allotment or kitchen garden.

The Vegetable Garden Planner: by Lynn Byczynski

A Crop-by-Crop Guide for Planning and Tracking Your Garden Bounty Each Year, from Seed Starting to Harvest, organized alphabetically by vegetable, with several pages of note space for each crop so that readers can easily compare one year's plant growth, variety performance and flavour, harvest amounts, weather trends, and pest pressure to those from previous years.

My cool allotment: by Lia Leendertz

An inspirational guide to stylish allotments and community gardens. An allotment is one of the best – and cheapest ways – of getting hold of valuable gardening space to grow your own produce, along with being sociable places, great for meeting like-minded people.

Allotment Days: Matthew Biggs.

A Celebration of the Wonderful World of Plots and Planting, a real look at life on the allotments charting different people's perspectives and the joy and the tears/aches/pains they get from working an allotment. With some great tips from the allotmenteer's themselves.

Digital book recommended read

General Gardening Advice

All New! Square Foot Gardening, by Square Foot Gardening Foundation (4th Edition). The World's Most Popular Growing Method to Harvest MORE Food from Less Space – Urban to Rural – Garden Anywhere! New Garden Plans & Projects, ideal for allotments.

First-Time Gardener by A.M Rivera

Personal guide to turning a vision into reality, no matter the size of your plot or your level of experience. From the first sprout to a bountiful harvest, this book accompanies you through every step, ensuring a gardening journey that is as rewarding as the blooms and harvests it leads to.

Organic and sustainable practices

The Art of Vegetable Gardening: Grow Your Own Organic Vegetables and Embrace the Joy of a Sustainable Garden by Azalea Ashford

The secrets to a thriving vegetable garden an essential guide, perfect for beginners and seasoned gardeners alike. Whether you're looking to add a few herbs to your kitchen or cultivate a large vegetable plot, this book is designed to guide you step-by-step through the process of planting, growing, and harvesting your own food.

Speciality Gardening

Herb Gardening - The Ultimate Guide by Margaret Willow

Comprehensive guide for growing delicious and aromatic herbs, whether you're a complete beginner or have some gardening experience. Learn the secrets to selecting the right herbs, preparing ideal growing conditions, and achieving bountiful harvests year-round.

Recycling in the Garden by Angela Youngman

Reusing Everyday Items People are becoming more aware of the environment and their impact on it. Over the past decades we have become an increasingly consumerist based society. From a world in which recycling was common, single use became the norm. This throwaway society is unsustainable. Sustainable gardening results in the creation of an environmentally friendly area in which natural predators thrive and soils are naturally replenished.

Greenhouse Gardening by Mark Barksdale

Complete greenhouse gardening for beginners book, you will find the ultimate guide to greenhouse gardening, little-known technologies that can help you to grow the most beautiful garden in town, and even how to purchase a greenhouse successfully.

The Complete Allotment Guide - Starting Out, Growing and Techniques by Jason Johns

Everything you need to know to get started growing fruit and vegetables. Whether you have an allotment, a smallholding or a vegetable garden at home, you will learn how to start growing in the ground and in containers.

Vegetable Growing by Jonathan Stevens

A Money-Saving Guide to Vegetable Growing, a practical guide to frugal allotmenting, including planning your plot, looking after the plants and practical tips for keeping your costs down, such as clever ways of making freebie alternatives to common growing tools.