



seed library

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GARDEN PREP

Hello friends!

If you've still got your seeds sealed up in those paper packets- this is your friendly push to get them planted. Were you a bit late to the game and didn't start seed indoors? So was I! But never fear, most of the seeds that were available in our seed library are ideal for starting outdoors right in the ground! I would actually say all, with the exception of the tomatoes perhaps.



The sun has been shining and your garden will be growing in no time! If you did start seeds indoors, you can start to harden off your seedlings once they've grown at least two to three sets of leaves. At that point, they're mature enough to move outside for a few hours each day. The term hardening off refers to the process of gradually preparing a plant to survive (and thrive) in outdoor conditions that are colder, windier and brighter than inside. The time it takes for this process will vary a little bit based on the situation, but usually takes 7 to 14 days.



It's all about the soil

Soil is one of the most important factors in successful gardening. Use what you have handy in your own garden, kitchen or neighbourhood to add organic materials.

Easily available organic matter can include:

- your kitchen food scraps
- grass clippings (fresh and green, they add nitrogen or aged and brown, they add carbon)
- leaves
- pruned branches or seedless weeds;
- coffee grinds
- manures (ideally aged rather than fresh)



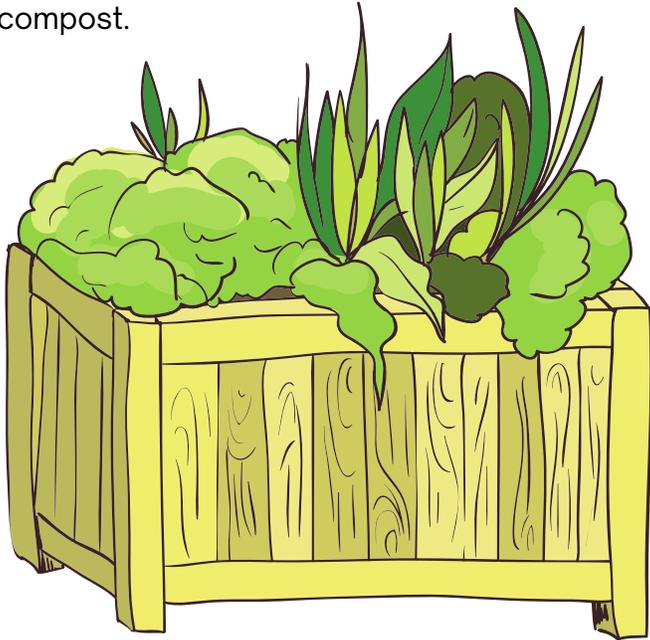
If you have your own compost system, that's ideal for building larger amounts of nutrient-rich soil to feed your garden. Consider starting a compost bin in your yard and it will be something you can add all the good things listed above into throughout the year. It doesn't have to be fancy- I built one in my yard out of old pallets.

PLANTING

your garden

As you prepare to put your plants or seeds in the ground, let's consider our options...

Perhaps you have an **existing garden bed** and you just need to add in some fresh topsoil or compost.



Maybe you are building raised beds or garden boxes. A big advantage of gardening in raised beds is that you have complete control over the quality and characteristics of your soil. The base recipe for rich and fertile soil is amazingly simple: 50% topsoil / 50% compost.

Planting in various **pots and planters** is a great way to go in smaller spaces or if you don't want to go all in on a big garden just yet. The pots can be moved around your space to optimize sunlight at various points throughout the day as well! You can even purchase soil blends specifically for planters to be sure you are getting a good rich mix of soil. These mixes are designed to keep the soil from becoming too compacted, which can suffocate roots and impede the flow of water and nutrients.



If you're like me and not a big fan of grass (or cutting it), then consider putting in a '**Lasagna Garden**' bed! Lasagna gardening is a simple, no-dig, no-till organic gardening method that results in rich, fluffy soil with very little work from the gardener. Here's how to go about it...

Step 1: Prepare the site, level the ground. Don't worry about grass or weeds, these will be covered up and will not pose a problem.

Step 2: Gather materials (grass clippings, leaves, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea leaves and tea bags, manure, compost, seaweed, shredded newspaper or junk mail, pine needles, spent blooms, trimmings from the garden, peat moss, cardboard). Not all are necessary- work with what you've got!

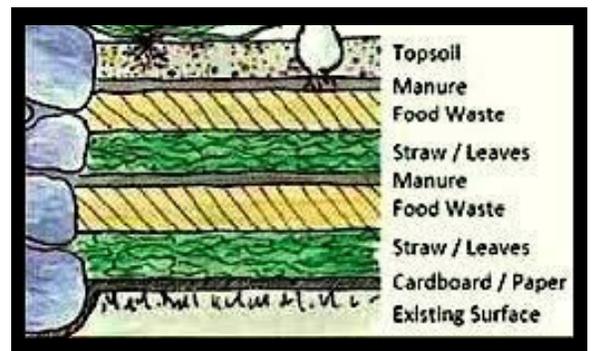
Step 3: Put down a thick layer of cardboard or newspaper. Cardboard will act as a ground cover and keep the weeds from popping up. It will completely decompose and actually add to your soil!

Step 4: Time for the second layer, which consists of water-absorbent materials (these are straw, dried grass clippings, leaves, or bark), layer about 2-3 inches thick.

Step 5: The third layer is 4-8 inches of organic materials. You need to build your layers with organic materials like grass clippings and compost as this is the layer that increases the productivity of your lasagna garden.

Step 6: Sprinkle some water over the last layer. This will assist in the breakdown of the materials you used.

Step 7: Continue to layer until you get the height you desire.



Challenge #1

WANT MORE

Seeds?

***Send me a photo of
your planted seeds.***



email photos to csheriff@pclib.ca



Oh snap!

Whether it be in the DIY newspaper or other pots, or your garden at large- I'd love to see your seedling progress! However big or miniscule! No need to be fancy, go ahead and get dirty! Send me a pic or two and I'll give you some more seeds! Something different than the ones you already selected in your initial order! That's it, a pic for more seeds! Snap, snap!

Until next time, spread haPEANess

-Candice

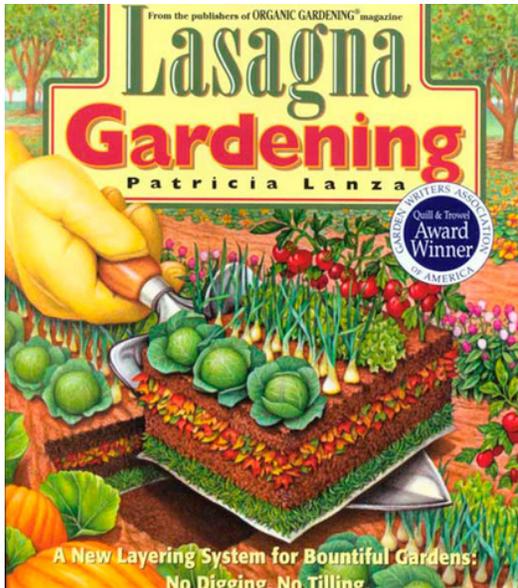


selections from our catalogue to help with garden prep



[click on the text to reserve the book]

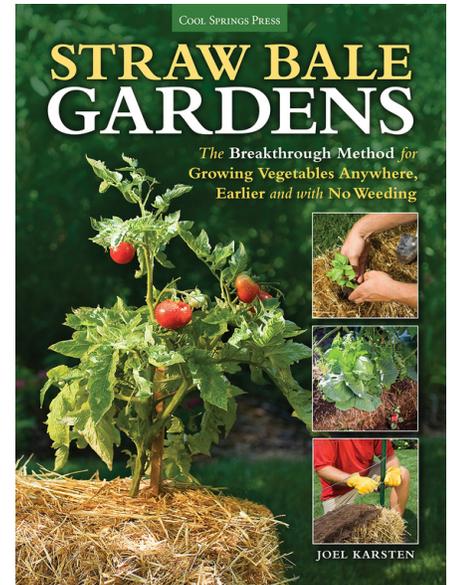
Adult Non-Fiction



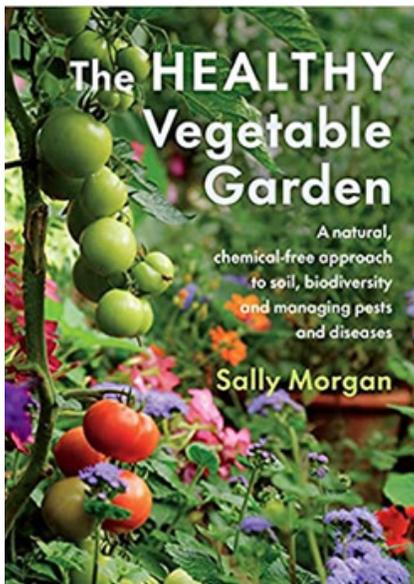
Lasagna gardening new layering system for bountiful gardens: no digging, no tilling, no weeding, no kidding



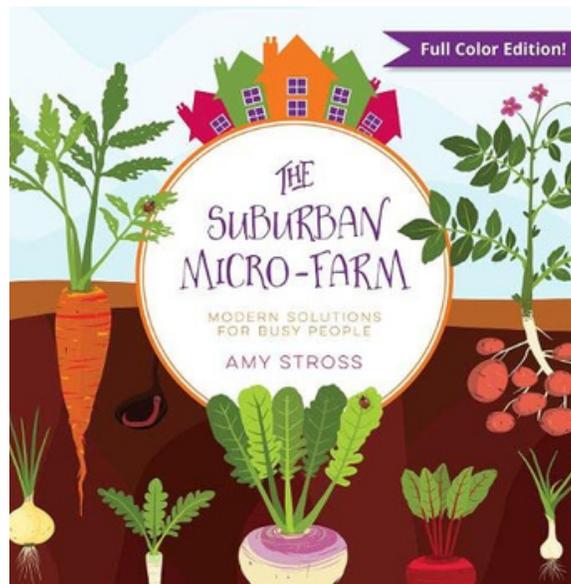
Raised bed revolution: build it, fill it, plant it ... garden anywhere



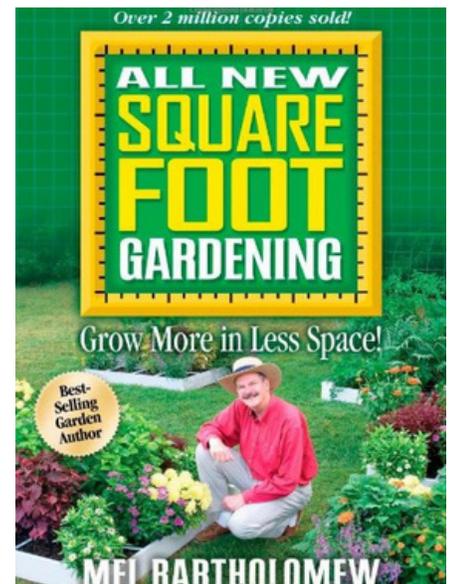
Straw bale gardens: the breakthrough method for growing vegetables anywhere, earlier and with no weeding



The healthy vegetable garden: a natural, chemical-free approach to soil, biodiversity and managing pests and diseases



The suburban micro-farm: modern solutions for busy people



All new square foot gardening: grow more in less space!