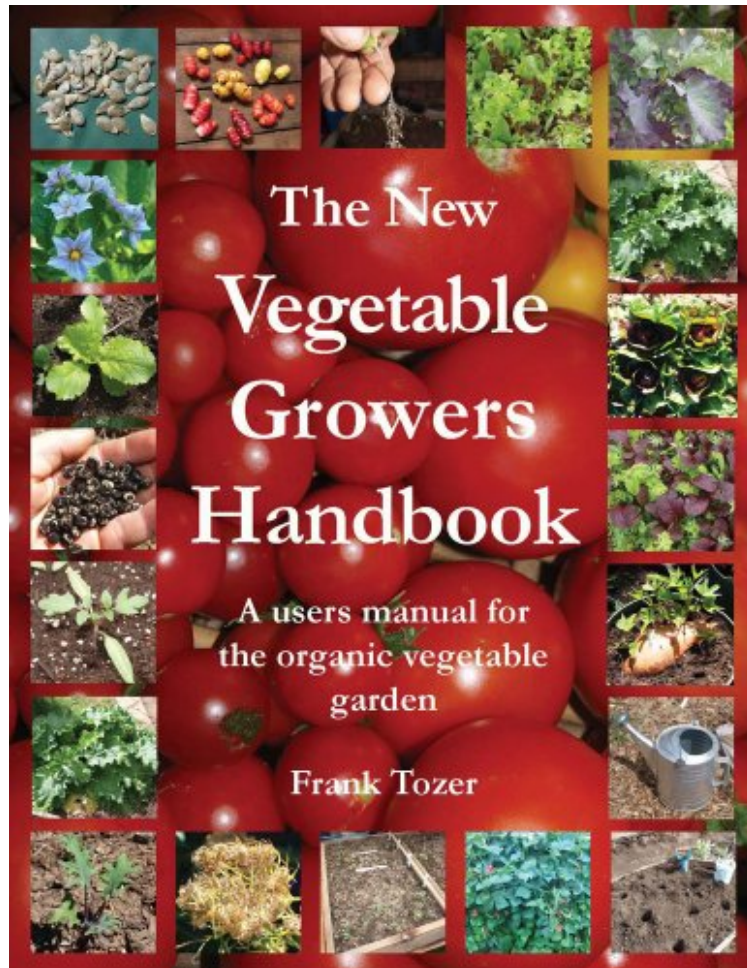


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The New Vegetable Growers Handbook: A Users Manual for the Vegetable Garden

Frank Tozer

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Frank Tozer : The New Vegetable Growers Handbook: A Users Manual for the Vegetable Garden before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Vegetable Growers Handbook: A Users Manual for the Vegetable Garden:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not Perfect, just Essential By Cecelia Schmieder This is as good as it gets for individual vegetable growing information. The vegetables are mostly listed alphabetically, with an index (a bit misleadingly titled "Contents") at the front for the few exceptions (radicchio is listed under chicory--okay, it is a chicory, but I looked under "R" first). Although I have a few quibbles, a book that (mostly accurately) covers well over 100 crops in detail is a must-buy. Each vegetable has detailed growing guide, plus an "about__" box with very useful key facts. Listed are germination temperature and time, growing temperature, weeks to transplant, plant diameter AND height, days to harvest and more. I've had my own garden for 25 years and still need to look things up sometimes.

Putting the numbers in an easy-to find place is exactly right. The main-text growing instructions are pretty thorough. There are even recipes for some of the vegetables (fried okra, yum). Unique in my experience is a line in the "about" box for average yield per plant. (More common is the rather presumptuous "plants per person"--I had to find out the hard way, after following another book's advice, that two rhubarb plants are NOT enough for two people if you actually like to eat it). I've seen yield per 100 square feet, but per-plant yield is obviously more useful for a home gardener. A few look "off" to me--I'm sure I get a lot more than 1-2 lbs out of each kale and collard plant (but then, I start mine in March and harvest into December). Other per-plant yields, accurate or not, are reassuring--a 2-6 lb average from one tomato plant makes those luscious-but-fussy heirlooms look better (only one tomato off Aunt Ruby's German Green in the cold winter--oops, summer--of 2014, but it was a 2 1/2 lb monster). Looking at pound-per-plant figures made me question my "eyeball" productivity estimates--are those boring little cherry tomatoes inflating their apparent output by producing dozens of 1/2 oz nothings? I may get completely OCD this summer and weigh everything. The tone of the book is informal and practical, and mostly grounded in the author's practical experience. This is mostly a good thing (far better than the "Voice of God" some of these books use). There is very little "my way or the highway" here, and when he does have a clear bias (in favour of caging tomatoes, for instance), he will give a quick run-down of the alternatives (yes, I'm a control freak who prunes tomatoes for earliness and disease control). He could be a little clearer whether or not he's passing on things he hasn't tried. The potato-in-a-garbage-can, for example, has many proponents, but no practitioners with photographic evidence. Some potatoes will produce stolons farther up their stems than most, but two feet or more? I'll believe it when I see it. Information about cold-climate gardening comes with the caveat that he's gardening in California. Under Garlic, for example: "In areas with very cold winters, fall planted garlic may not survive outside and in such places it must be planted in spring". What's "very cold"? Garlic has survived a few decades of Zone 5 winters here, up to -18 degrees Fahrenheit, and I'm pretty certain it's hardy down to -40. (It will die if you plant it at the wrong depth, or fail to mulch.) Under "Globe Artichoke" the advice is a bit iffy for starting from seed as an annual (as we must do here in New England). It's better started 8-12 weeks (not 6-8) before last frost, and vernalized by transplanting (or just setting out in a cold place) while it's still cool, protecting from hard frost only. Even so-called annual varieties do better if vernalized..At this point, you may have noticed I'm being ridiculously picky. What other vegetable how-to book even mentions globe artichokes? You would get artichokes in a good year following his instructions. Mild-winter gardeners will have no problems using this book. Cold-climate gardeners may want to consult a second source where appropriate. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great great gardening book By AHI have lots of gardening books but this by far is one of the best! It is very comprehensive, and tells you everything you need to know in a well thought out and succinct manner. It describes varieties of vegetables of the same type, how and when to plant for your kind of climate, what kinds of pests you may encounter, soil types, how and when to apply amendments/fertilizer and what to use. Each vegetable gets its own section in the book, and it is arranged in alphabetical order as well as having an index. I have gotten other gardening books in which I read the whole thing and only ended up with one or two points that stuck with me. And in our fast paced world, we all need information quickly to make the right choices and decisions. Well, this is it. It is great for reference with an easy to use format. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Impressive! By Mel Lions A thorough and impressive book for anyone who wants to grow food -- gardener or farmer alike. This is a required textbook in our school for sustainable farming.

The New Vegetable Growers Handbook is an updated version of Frank Tozer's acclaimed book The Vegetable Growers Handbook. Like the original, it covers every aspect of growing all of the common crops (and a number of uncommon ones). As a long-time home gardener, the author knows exactly what information you need to succeed and presents it in a clear, thorough, and even entertaining fashion. There are step-by-step instructions on soil preparation, variety selection, raising transplants, direct sowing, watering, protection, harvesting, storage, seed saving, and much more. He doesn't just tell you what to do and when to do it, he also tells you why, by explaining in detail how crops grow and why they sometimes don't. The original book received high marks from reader reviewers, with comments like "fantastic," "my gardening bible," and "this book provides more detailed and easy-to-read information on individual crops than any other gardening book I've seen." This new, revised edition has been expanded by 50 percent, with more information on more crops, with the aim of creating the most useful and practical book on vegetable gardening available anywhere.

About the Author Frank Tozer has been fascinated by gardening, food plants and edible wild plants for as long as he can remember. He grew up in England, but moved to the United States as a young man and travelled extensively before settling down to grow plants, first in Connecticut and then in California and Washington. For a time he was an apprentice at the UCSC Farm and Garden in Santa Cruz, where he learned how to grow vegetables more methodically and abundantly. In many respects his journey closely parallels that of many earlier European settlers in America. He arrived with nothing, travelled overland across the country, settled in the Santa Cruz mountains, built a house (almost singlehandedly), carved a productive garden from the surrounding woods and raised a family. He has had many paying

jobs over the years, as a gardener, carpenter, plumber, jeweler, solar installer, general contractor, farmer and writer. Tozer is the author of four books. *The Uses Of Wild Plants*, *The New Food Garden*, *The New Vegetable Growers Handbook* and *The Organic Gardeners Handbook*.