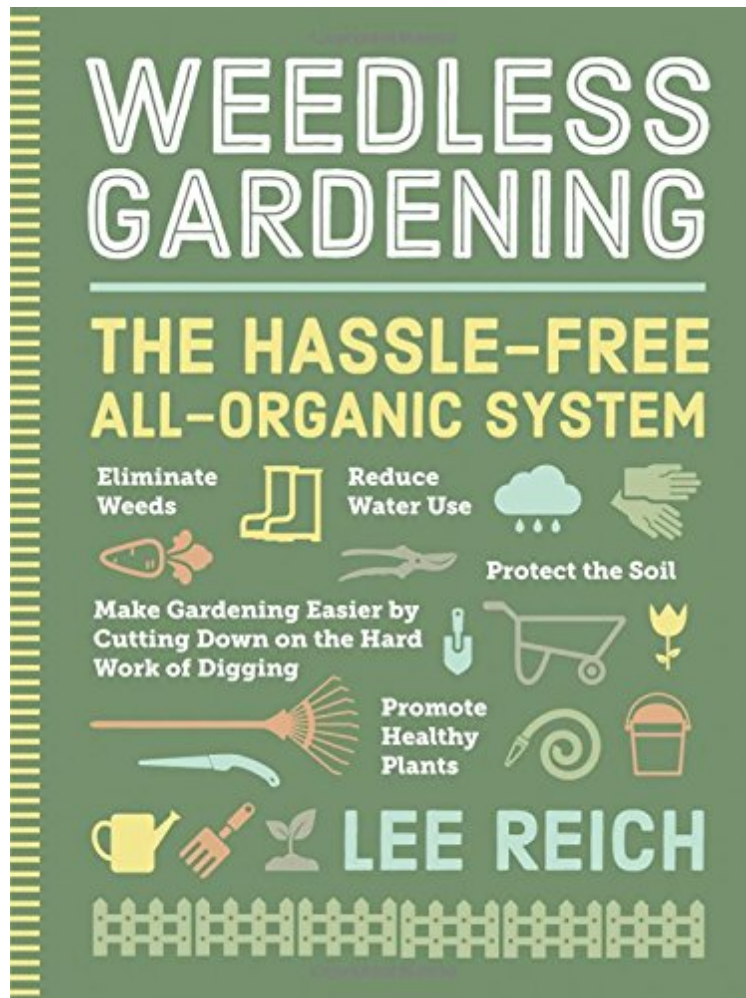


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## Weedless Gardening

Lee Reich

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#52366 in Books Lee Reich 2000-01-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .52 x 5.951, .70 #File Name: 0761116966176 pagesWeedless Gardening | File size: 40.Mb

**Lee Reich : Weedless Gardening** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weedless Gardening:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book with lots of details that are hard to find in a single sourceBy DANIEL STRUMI found this book honest and helpful. Finding information on mulching/composting as a long term way of controlling weeds is hard to find and this book provides a lot of helpful information. Dr. Reich has an effective and easy to apply method for controlling weeds in a garden bed. Controlling Bermuda grass (quack grass) at the edges of my beds is an on going struggle for which I do not have a good solution (pulling weeds is quite labor intensive and needs to be repeated often). Hopefully this book will get an update with newer research findings in this area. I highly recommend this book.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great go to book.By Carlos RicoFavorite go to book for our small organic farm. Getting the weeds to stay down is half the battle. We get lots of

rain and lots of weeds just waiting to be set loose by tilling. Of course you may need to first break up the hard pan soil, but from that point on, Lee Reich's book has a great sustainable solution to your weeding woes. It's not "just" a weedless gardening book though. He gives info on his universal pabulum for slow release organic fertilizer, tips on how to plant trees and a general all round gardening book. I've bought three copies, as they seem to find their way out to the garden and get soaked. Great book. Five stars! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Would recommendBy ToddI am enjoying the book, very good and simple ideas.

Conventional wisdom says to garden from the bottom up, turning over the soil every spring until your back aches. Ironically, this does such a good job aerating that gardeners spend the rest of the season pulling weeds and replacing the suddenly energized (and easily used up) nutrients. Mother nature, on the other hand, gardens from the top down-- layering undisturbed soil with leaves and other organic materials. In following this example and synthesizing the work of other perceptive gardeners, Lee Reich presents a compelling new system called weedless gardening. The Weedless Garden is good for plants and it's good for people. It protects the soil, contributes to plant health, reduces water needs, cuts down on a gardener's labor, encourages earthworms and, of course, mitigates weed problems by keeping the seeds dormant. Four basic tenets form the system's backbone--minimize soil disruption; protect soil surface; avoid soil compaction; use drip irrigation--and the way to get there is simple. For a new bed or established garden, layering is key, and the perfect material to use is also among the most common--newspaper. Add organic mulch and compost on top, and plants are growing in rich, self-generating humus. From vegetable gardening to flower gardens to planting trees, shrubs, and vines, The Weedless Garden works everywhere--allowing the gardener to work quite a bit less.

.com "There's no such thing," my ace-gardener mom said when I told her about Weedless Gardening. I think author Lee Reich would agree that the title is a bit misleading (there will always be some weeds). Also a bit misleading are the blurbs from the publisher, which stop short of calling the book "ground-breaking" only because Reich's system is based on the total eschewal of tilling or otherwise turning over the soil. The building blocks of his philosophy have been in use for decades in one way or another: from low-till commercial farming techniques (which sometimes also involve firebombing the soil with herbicide) to simple green composting with knocked-down cover crops. But in Weedless Gardening Reich takes it all the way, no tilling, no herbicide unless absolutely necessary--all while providing everything the home gardener needs to know about cover crops, composting, and drip irrigation. In every section Reich lists mail-order and Internet sources for supplies. The benefits of cover crops, composting, and planting in beds rather than rows are widely known, and they're dealt with in depth here. More controversial is Reich's injunction to rigorously preserve the natural layering of the soil--even when pulling up weeds, dead annuals, or old corn stalks. He makes a good case: tilling under weedy areas kills existing weeds in the short term, but turning over the dirt exposes more weed seeds to sunlight and air, and more of them will germinate; better to kill them first by mowing and self-composting or smothering them with mulch. In addition, Reich explains, water in broken-up, uniform soil tends to flow straight down; water in undisturbed soil travels more slowly, in different directions--down and sideways--thus more efficiently reaching roots. Installing a drip irrigation system further decreases water use (the book includes detailed instructions and formulas for calculating water-flow and timing) and, like many of Reich's recommendations, apparently works best when practiced in concert with his no-till, "top-down" method. What isn't clear is how effective his system can be in an area that has been worked over by indifferent landscapers or that has already been tilled over and over for years. How long will it take for that plot's soil to resettle into something resembling its pretilled state? If my mom starts "weedless gardening" now, will she be wading through a forest of weeds or, worse, buying tasteless corn at the supermarket come August? --Liana FredleyFrom Publishers WeeklyWeeds are every gardener's nemesis, so any book promising to eliminate them is certain to excite interest. Fortunately, Reich's approach is a credible one. A former agricultural researcher for Cornell University and the USDA, Reich (Uncommon Fruits Worthy of Attention: A Gardener's Guide) challenges conventional gardening or gardening from the bottom up, in which the soil is turned over every spring or fall. This method exposes to light and air all the weed seeds lying dormant in the soil and encourages weed growth. Reich maintains that instead, since soil health determines plant health, gardeners should essentially create new soil by gardening as nature does from the top down. This means placing layers of newspaper over the soil to smother weed growth, covering the area year after year with mulch (which can include compost, leaves, bark chips or peat moss), then planting in that rich medium. He outlines his method in detail, offering modifications for different soil types and adding irrigation, planting, harvesting and tidying tips. Numerous charts and illustrations accompany Reich's chatty, highly literate text. He also discusses cover crops, vegetables, various types of flower garden designs, groundcovers, trees (including fruit trees), shrubs and vines, all of which can flourish under the weedless gardening technique. Reich's is a revolutionary approach to gardening, engagingly and lucidly explained. (Mar.) Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "...the book has plenty of good information about drip irrigations, compost making, vegetable spacing and varieties, tree planting, and more." -- Garden Design"Lee Reich says all that digging was a waste of time. Weeks of torturous toil lie behind you." --

