



The New Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit: An Illustrated Encyclopedia

By Matthew Biggs, Jekka McVicar, Bob Flowerdew

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Matthew Biggs, Jekka McVicar, Bob Flowerdew

Praise for the previous edition:

"These three amazing authors have put together a must-have book for any vegetable grower."

-- Washington Gardener

"What is not included in this definitive and beautifully illustrated sourcebook on edible landscape?"

-- The American Herb Association

"Satisfying ... There's an abundance of information and tantalizing pictures."

-- New York Times

The first edition of *Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit* was published in 2006. All editions and formats sold more than one million copies and it quickly became a classic reference. A decade later, this edition adds a new jacket, updates the design, and expands by 60 new pages for a total of over 70 vegetables, 100 herbs and 100 popular fruits. The most current information on plant varieties and cultivation techniques make it the essential sourcebook for all food gardeners, especially for anyone who would like to start growing their own produce and who feels they need some expert advice.

The coverage is phenomenal -- from the care of asparagus through the seasons to the huge number of apples that can be grown in even the smallest spaces. Lavish illustrations in an accessible layout, and clear and accurate text applicable to all regions invites readers to browse and try growing something new.

Each listing opens with a large photograph of the plant and a descriptive paragraph. The topics include: species and common names; recommended varieties; cultivation techniques (propagation, growing, maintenance); container growing; harvesting and storing; pests and diseases; companion planting; medicinal uses; culinary uses, with recipes; and other uses and warnings. Additional images show other parts of the plant during the seasons, as well as

recipe photographs.

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Editorial Review

Review

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] It is about as precise and concise a guide as you would ever wish to find. (*Shelf Life*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] What is not included in this definitive and beautifully illustrated sourcebook on edible landscape? (*The American Herb Association* vo. 21:4)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] A comprehensive reference book on edible plants... information on hundreds of edible plants accompanied by more than 1,800 color photographs. (Viveka Neveln *American Gardener*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Solid gardening tips and tempting recipes... enough to teach even experienced gardeners new tricks... excellent index. (Diane M. Calabrese *American Reference Books Annual*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] A well-organized overview that examiners each cultivar in depth... visually pleasing... the insight of some very diverse expert gardeners. (*Backhome Magazine*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Good value for money ... very helpful. (Mary Fran McQuade *Beach Metro Community News* 2006-11-28)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] By far the most comprehensive book on the subject. A must-have for those growing edible crops ... Easy to use. (Connie Krochmal *Bee Culture*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] For the edible landscape, the best title by far is Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit... everything you need to know to grow, harvest, and use garden produce. (Connie Krochmal *BellaOnline* 2006-03-25)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Not only how to grow, but also how to harvest, preserve and use 70 vegetables... a comprehensive, quick-read encyclopedia. (Suzanne Hively *Cleveland Plain Dealer* 2006-03-02)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Whether you utilize it to learn how to use soapwort to treat skin conditions such as eczema or for the recipe for curried parsnip soup, it is valuable to novice and experienced horticulturists alike. Written by a trio of garden experts, this is a must-have resource for any gardener or chef. (Tricia Landry Wallace *Country Accents*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] This comprehensive garden book goes beyond the dirt, offering tips on growing, harvesting, preserving and cooking. (*Desert News* 2009-02-22)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Bright color photos, clean layout, and handy hints make this hefty garden bible a treasure, and it's a great deal. (Dee Cherrie Ashman *Diversions*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] A garden book full of surprises... there's so much to discover... excellent information. (Patty Jessome *Edmonton Sun* 2006-07-23)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] An excellent source of information on growing and cooking edible plants. (Cathy Frisinger *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* 2006-03-11)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] This reference book is as colourful as it is inspiring and will appeal to anyone who would like to grow edible plants. The authors leave no leaf unturned -- every topic is covered.... Best of all, more than 100 recipes are included to take advantage of your crop once it's time to harvest.... With more than 600 pages and 800 colour photos and illustrations, this book is definitely food for thought. (Liz Grogan *Good Times*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] An indispensable resource, giving an amazing amount of information that will be of value to any gardener, whether planting a field or a window box. (*Grainews* 2006-04-10)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] I believe this volume will become a constant source of reliable information. Highly recommended. (*GreatGardenInfo.com* 2009-04-28)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Amazingly thorough encyclopedic look at edible plants. (George Weigel *Harrisburg Patriot-New* 2006-04-27)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Every gardener -- novice or expert -- will find useful information. (*Home Cooking*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Offers advice on cultivation techniques, dealing with pests and diseases, suggestions for companion plants, and culinary, medicinal and cosmetic uses. (Ken Smith *London Free Press* 2006-07-22)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Well organized, easy to access information, and concisely written. A good reference book! (*Making Scents (Magazine of the International Aroma)*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] This all-encompassing book combines the expertise of three gardeners to offer a prodigious range of information.... easy-to-use alphabetical format, it is illustrated with more than 1,800 color photographs and informative illustrations. (*Michigan Gardener*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] This all-encompassing book combines the expertise of three leading gardeners to offer a prodigious range of information on more than 100 herbs, 70 vegetables and 100 fruits. Arranged in an easy-to-use alphabetical format from Aaron's Rod to Zucchini, the book is copiously illustrated with more than 1,800 color photographs and informative graphics. Readers learn how to select the plants best suited to their plant zone, and what to do to insure a successful crop. (*New Living (Montauk, NY)*)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Satisfying ... There's an abundance of information and tantalizing pictures. Isn't it nice when peas are so neatly tucked into their pods in those very polite rows? (Dominique Browning *New York Times* 2010-05-27)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] For a complete reference on growing food crops, you can't go wrong with the new, up-to-the minute Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit. (John Van de Water *Newark Star-Ledger* 2006-04-16)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] It's a useful book for the gardener who is short on time and seeks easy-to-follow, no-fail instructions. (*Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* 2010-05-22)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Information on individual cultivars, as well as some very good recipes. (Vern Nelson *Portland Oregonian* 2006-12-14)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] Comprehensive... a valuable reference for both gardeners and inquisitive chefs. (*Science News* 2006-01-28)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] This book is a handsome addition to the gardening library and an excellent value. (Chris Smith *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* 2006-09-21)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] This has become my 'bible' because it contains great photographs with bite-sized chunks of information that are easy to read, inspiring and comprehensive. (Sonia Day *Toronto Star* 2007-12-04)

[Review of previous hardcover edition:] This is now my favorite source book for growing, propagating, harvesting, storing, and cooking all things edible. An A to Z-type reference guide, it is easy to use, has beautiful photography, and [has] details all gardeners need like Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and companion plants. These three amazing authors have put together a must-have book for any vegetable grower. (Ursule Sabia Sukinik *Washington Gardener*)

[Review of previous paperback edition:] Now issued as a more affordable paperback edition, this work is ideal for gardeners looking to grow their own vegetables, herbs, and fruits. Solid gardening tips and tempting recipes mix, quite naturally.... Visually, the book is a match for the mind's eye of any gardener. (Diane M. Calabrese *American Reference Books Annual 2014* 2014-09-01)

Included in this beautifully illustrated book is a brief introduction to the origins of farming and gardening and the different types of gardens that have existed throughout time. The introduction also discusses botanical names and their importance in identifying plants. The vegetables and herbs featured in the book are categorized A-Z, and included with each entry are the different varieties available, all the ways to properly tend to them, and recipes that can be prepared with them. The fruits that are featured in the book are divided into sections by how they are grown. For those who are interested in the possibility of setting up their own garden, the section on gardening includes tips on where to position specific varieties, preparation of the soil, and actual planting. In addition to the above sections, the book includes a useful guide to sourcing seeds, an expansive glossary, a bibliography, and an index. Diagrams in the gardening section, a chart about crop rotation, and information about pest varieties and control will all be extremely helpful to both novice and experienced gardeners. (Holly Skir *Booklist* 2017-02-01)

About the Author

Matthew Biggs lectures at the Royal Horticultural Society and around the world. He is the co-author of *Complete Book of Vegetables*.

Jekka McVicar has been awarded 59 Royal Horticultural Society gold medals. She is well known for her regular appearances on TV and radio gardening programs. She is the author of *Jekka's Herb Cookbook*.

Bob Flowerdew is an author and a lecturer for the Royal Horticultural Society. His previous books include *Organic Gardening Bible: Successful Growing the Natural Way*.

Users Review

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