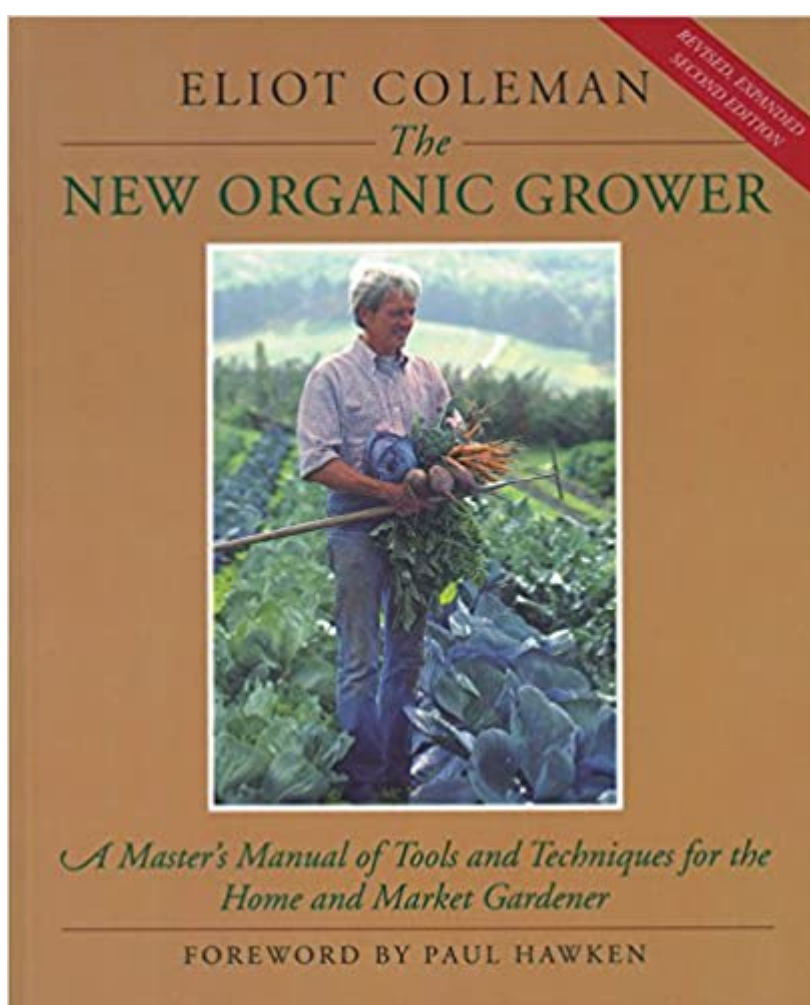


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The New Organic Grower: A Master's Manual Of Tools And Techniques For The Home And Market Gardener, 2nd Edition (A Gardener's Supply Book)



Synopsis

With more than 45,000 sold since 1989, *The New Organic Grower* has become a modern classic. In this newly revised and expanded edition, master grower Eliot Coleman continues to present the simplest and most sustainable ways of growing top-quality organic vegetables. Coleman updates practical information on marketing the harvest, on small-scale equipment, and on farming and gardening for the long-term health of the soil. The new book is thoroughly updated, and includes all-new chapters such as: *Farm-Generated Fertility* – how to meet your soil-fertility needs from the resources of your own land, even if manure is not available. *The Moveable Feast* – how to construct home-garden and commercial-scale greenhouses that can be easily moved to benefit plants and avoid insect and disease build-up. *The Winter Garden* – how to plant, harvest, and sell hardy salad crops all winter long from unheated or minimally heated greenhouses. *Pests* – how to find "plant-positive" rather than "pest-negative" solutions by growing healthy, naturally resistant plants. *The Information Resource* – how and where to learn what you need to know to grow delicious organic vegetables, no matter where you live. Written for the serious gardener or small market farmer, *The New Organic Grower* proves that, in terms of both efficiency and profitability, smaller can be better.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Coleman's personable work draws together the experience and wisdom of his 25 years as a

vegetable gardener in Maine. It includes nearly all the material in the previous edition (LJ 11/1/89), communicating a respect and feeling for "the land" and its processes. Every page is imbued with the wisdom and careful observations he and his associates have gathered; from soil structure to "mobile greenhouses" that expand the growing season, each method is thought through to its ultimate impact on the earth and on economic survival. Well-presented graphics illustrate methods and techniques. This new edition includes sidebar references and notes, new chapters on creating fertile soil (without importing items such as manure from sources that may not use organic methods), and use of existing information channels to learn of new information. Of interest for even the smallest veggie patch grower. The Dirt Doctor's Guide to Organic Gardening presents many of the same sustainable concepts with the vehemence of its radio talk show host and news columnist author. Garrett gives tips on a broader range of home gardening, including landscaping and wildlife, and spends much effort on the abuses of past and current practice. Basics are presented briefly, with many eco-asides that help break up the dense, information-rich text. Lack of visuals makes the material harder to absorb, yet one is constantly copying out directions as they appear. These tidbits and the coverage of issues concerning Southern gardens make the title of value, though gathering the tips in an appendix or special section would have provided better access. For general collections. Sue Gardner, Albert Wisner Lib., Warwick, N.Y. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Gave me so much good information that other books have not. Especially like the part on crop rotation and how to devise your own plan. I have many vegetable gardening book and this is the only one that has really helped after more than 10 years of gardening. It is not a book though to search how to information though you could do that. I enjoyed it just reading from start to finish and marked the parts I wanted to go back to and take notes. i like this the best of all Coleman's books.

One caveat: if you grow veggies on 1/4 acre or more you're going to like this book more than if you grow veggies on a small lot (less than 100 sq. ft), on a balcony, or in containers. The reader will have to scale down significantly the concepts in this book. I don't think it's impossible; but it is more work for the reader. also, this is not a how-to book. Coleman gives some guidance but no step-by-step instructions. I first checked this book out from the local library (as a newbie gardener I found the information relevant, fascinating and it fired me up about organic techniques which are making a comeback). I checked it out so many times that I decided to buy it. I must admit that some of the writing feels rather technical and elevated even though he does use plain English. The information on crop rotation was like a graduate level explication class for me (if that doesn't make

sense that's how i felt after reading the crop rotation section). He has a method using index cards that i found clear as mud (that's part of the reason I didn't buy this book at first, i think I would have felt overwhelmed). It is geared toward small commercial growers 2.5 acres to 5 acres types. However, i believe that these concepts can be applied to a small home garden be it just a few raised beds or a 1/4 acre lot. While he won't tell you HOW to create a raised bed specifically or provide a step-by-step guide on everything there is to know about gardening, he gives you his known good advice on composting, soil amendment, row spacing, greenhouse growing and especially the crops that they grown on their farm successfully, and so much more. Also keep in mind that this book's concepts are from years working on a farm in New England (not to mention experience working on small farms in Europe)--for gardeners who don't have to contend with permafrost you just have to make adjustments and keep those garden zones differences in mind. I love this book but if you're a newbie, check the book out from the library and evaluate before you make a purchase (that's my general recommendation on any book for that matter). Lastly, don't be to surprised if the techniques described in the book may appear more labor intensive (I don't know what aspect of gardening isn't labor intensive, but anyway...) or more complicated than traditional gardening techniques (say for example controlling weeds with chemicals or killing pests with pesticide or amending soil with chemical fertilizers). This book is about purely ORGANIC techniques that in the long run means less work for you as the gardener and more work returning to mother nature. Hence the name, New Organic Grower.

Better for larger gardens or farms. Not so great for small or community gardens.

Virtually anything Coleman does can be considered educational for the gardner who wants to avoid at least some of the dependence on the supermarket for their food, and who wants to practice a more organic cycle of gardening. The reason I believe this, is largely because he seems to be successfully practicing the methods he speaks of. I have seen him on TV, observed the appearance of his farm, the neatness and health of his acreage, the way his plants were flourishing, and therefore decided to read one of his books. I appreciate the TV home gardening shows and find them immensely valuable due to the visuals, but nothing takes the place of leisurely absorbing a good book on a subject after being suitably inspired by something. It is not a high gloss book, and I would have enjoyed some pictures of the actual farm, but it did give drawings of his outlines for rotation planting, harvesting, marketing, all based on his own experiences. Rock powders: The chapter I found the most important was the one dealing with rock powders as fertilizer. This should

be of interest to almost anyone who wants to improve their soil, no matter where they live.

I liked the detailed instructions about growing the various types of vegetables. I learned how to make and use soil blocks, and I learned how to extend my harvest. The advice was spot on. I loved reading it, and I've already applied his suggestions to my own vegetable gardens.

One of the best gardening books I've read. It talks in specific terms. Plus it explains why he likes to do things a certain way, and how he got to that decision. I have gardened organically for many years and have had few pest issues. Mr. Coleman went one step further and detailed how the organic garden fights pest and disease. I would recommend this book to new and seasoned gardeners.

So informative, and a no-nonsense approach. If you are looking for nice little sweet gardening anecdotes and folk wisdom look elsewhere! So many gardening books are just that- charming folksy little books that romanticize gardening and farming. This is the no bull\$#!t straight dope on market farming from someone who can back up everything he says with actual scientific data rather than anecdotal evidence and stories from the old days.

This book is particularly great if you intend to stay with a row system and looking for a small scale operation (small in size, not yield) - simple and direct hand on advice fo what to do, what tools work best without becoming a slave to your tools (toys) ect. I will likely go with a raised bed system instead and some info in here is just not compatible, but if I had more open space I would certainly try Coleman.

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