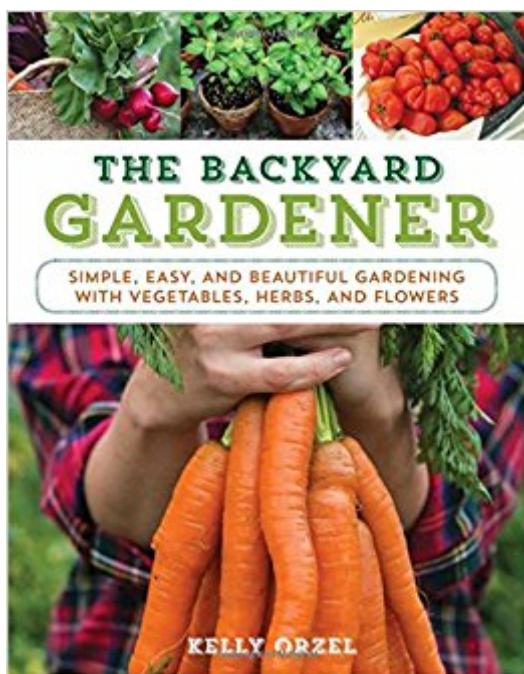


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# The Backyard Gardener: Simple, Easy, And Beautiful Gardening With Vegetables, Herbs, And Flowers



## Synopsis

A beautiful and simple guide to edible gardening. The "garden to table" movement is inspiring another generation of gardeners but many of them have questions. How important is composting? Is seed saving really worth it? Focusing on sustainable, organic growing practices and plants, *The Backyard Gardener* is a comprehensive handbook that will help get them started. Kelly Orzel covers everything from soil selection to growing and harvesting. Sidebars such as "garden center survival tips" offer useful advice to help readers build their confidence and know-how. This guide also features photographs of beautiful plant bed designs, propagation techniques, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kelly Orzel is a horticulturist who owns and operates Bowery Beach Farm in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. She is also a freelance writer and photographer.

What an informative, and beautiful, book. The information is accessible and appropriate for gardeners of all levels, from beginner to expert. The photography is lovely, making me want to see more of this author's farm. Lots of practical advice yet this can still be just a beautiful, fireside read. It makes you want to get out there and garden...or just sit and enjoy...either way You will enjoy it.

Beautiful pictures populate the pages as you are lead through the steps to a successful garden, starting with the soil. An important part of any garden, suggestions are made of emendments that

improve it, but the recommendation of testing it are the most important. It's tough to know what the soil lacks without these simple tests. Tips on tools, time saving, plant support, pest and diseases abound. It includes aid in starting from seed and transplanting your plants, rotation, companion planting and compost hints. Different vegetables, fruits and herbs are discussed at length. The information contained in this book covers most of the articles that a home gardener would need. Some flowers are covered as well as a calendar checklist. Well written and easily disseminated information make this book a winner. I asked for and received an ARC copy from NetGalley

Most gardeners work within a money budget, though new plant cultivars and time-saving gadgets present temptations to spend beyond the allowance. And then there are books. What is it about garden-flavored books with their glossy photos, charts, and ideas that disable the financial restraints? How does a gardener know the volume in his hands must be added to his book collection? When will the last book be purchased to complete that gardener's library? Well, not until he browses *The Backyard Gardener* by Kelly Orzel for certain. Orzel covers vegetable gardening from the soil up. She explains fertilizer and nutrients and identifies common pests and diseases. The author's helpful section on garden tools may help new gardeners save money by directing them to the must-haves. Orzel counsels (page 5), "You certainly don't need an armory of tools to maintain a backyard garden." Orzel promotes organic gardening techniques, and the wisdom she shares flows from her personal experiences. From propagation to record keeping to the benefits of worm castings for building soil, *The Backyard Gardener* covers useful topics that can be referenced often in coming seasons. The author gives close-up descriptions of a cornucopia of vegetables, herbs and flowers which can assist the gardener, experienced or newbie, in growing the healthiest produce. The text is sprinkled with useful tidbits such as (page 146), "When is my garlic ready?" Be warned the editor of the book opted to omit page numbers on the even pages. Some odd pages are also numberless especially in cases where the page presents a picture rather than text. Although this makes use of the index a little harder it in no way detracts from the author's excellent content. I recommend this book to anyone with a desire to learn more about growing food in your own backyard. Or your front yard, if the Homeowners Association allows such radical behavior.

I am an expert at gardening. Destroying them, I mean. I forget to water or get overcome by my allergies and hide inside or come out to find that all my beautiful herbs were enjoyed by bunnies and squirrels or destroyed by the crazy Kansas weather. Are you like me? Because now there is help.

Kelly Orzel has written a book to give us all expert advice with plants. The Backyard Gardener: Simple, Easy, and Beautiful Gardening with Vegetables, Herbs, and Flowers offers help and resources for people like me. She takes you step by step through the process, from the ground up. Horticulturist Orzel starts with the foundation, the soil, and helps you prepare it. She helps you understand the tools you need, how to feed the soil, why weeding is so important, how to deal with damaged or diseased plants, and how to deal with pests. She draws on her years of experience to offer simple explanations and workable solutions. From there, The Backyard Gardener takes you through planting and propagation, starting seeds indoors, saving seeds, dividing plants, and transplanting. It also provides practices for organic growing, like crop rotation, succession planting, intercropping, plant stacking, and companion gardening. In other words, Orzel helps you plan the timing and location of your plants to make the most of your soil. Then she takes you through a host of vegetable, herb, and flower plants, offering foolproof strategies for keeping them healthy and strong until it's time to harvest and enjoy. Lettuces, root vegetables, savory herbs, and beautiful flowers all combine in fresh ways to create a beautiful, sustainable garden for beginner and intermediate gardeners. The book includes lots of beautiful photos for inspiration and so many resources for once you're ready to go on your own plot. Suggested reading and websites, suppliers of gardening supplies, garden calendars, and seasonal checklists all help you plan and prepare for your best garden yet. As for me, maybe this is my year. The Backyard Gardener has given me so much information I can take to my favorite garden center and start to build my beautiful backyard garden. I don't think I can reverse all my years of unsuccessful gardening in only one year, but I can make a start. And now I know just where to begin. There is hope, even for a black thumb like me! Galleys for The Backyard Gardener were provided by the publisher through NetGalley.com.

Got this from the library but plan to order a copy. Best book ever for veggies especially. Everything is summarized & set out simply & directly. No extensive reading needed for a simple question!

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