

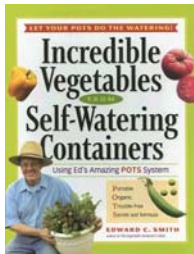
Hope Branch Flower Gardening Books

In the last library column, we looked at flower gardening, and to a lesser extent, landscape gardening. But even then, I gave fair warning that my true passion was in vegetable gardening.

I'm a big proponent of raising food of any sort, I think that it imparts a certain perspective about how something as simple as frozen peas is actually quite a complicated and delicate thing. It gives you a respect for food, and a respect for the ground that it's grown in, and I believe that those are valuable lessons.

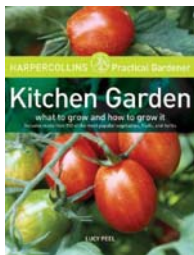
It also happens that the food always tastes better and is more nutritious when it's fresh from your backyard. I'm usually in the mood to talk gardening, so feel free to stop by and swap stories or seeds.

Incredible Vegetables From Self-Watering Containers by Edward C. Smith



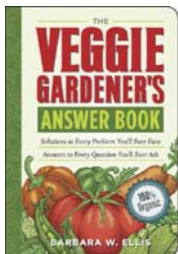
If you're new to vegetable gardening, container gardening is a good option. You don't need to fuss with tearing up a patch of your lawn, weeding is a snap and your produce is just outside your door. Ed Smith gives specific instructions for growing just about anything that you can imagine in a container, from herbs to tomatoes to root vegetables to garlic, peas and sweet potatoes.

The Kitchen Garden by Lucy Peel



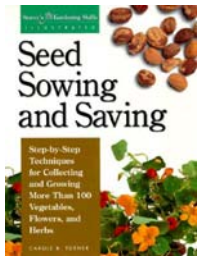
This title gives a page by page description of just about anything that you'd care to grow in a garden. Planting, care, and harvest are all outlined, along with major varieties and often a short history of the plant and its domestication. Each plant is only given a few pages of treatment at most, but due to the glossy color photographs, it's a great source to browse to pick out potential experiments for this year's garden. *Note that the author of this book is Lucy Peel. The term for someone whose name matches their profession is 'apronym'.*

The Veggie Gardener's Answer Book by Barbara Ellis



I'm always a sucker for books that don't have to be read straight through. And this one is just about perfect on that count. Minced into entries at most a page long, these quick questions and answers are easily browsed, but the latter half of the book is arranged by type of vegetable, so if you're having trouble with peppers, you don't have to sift through the whole book to find information on them. At the end of the book, a couple of appendices give tables and guides planting guides as well.

Seed Sowing and Saving by Carole Turner



For me, once I got the swing of planting and harvesting, my curiosities turned to variety. There is a wealth of different types of each and every garden vegetable, but not all of them are available as plants. I found that the only way to grow many tomatoes, peppers, melons and other veggies is to start them from seed. And once they grow, the only way to have them next year is by saving seed. If you find yourself in that cycle, then you should take a look at this title.

Dave Miller is Hope Branch Supervisor, Bartholomew County Public Library