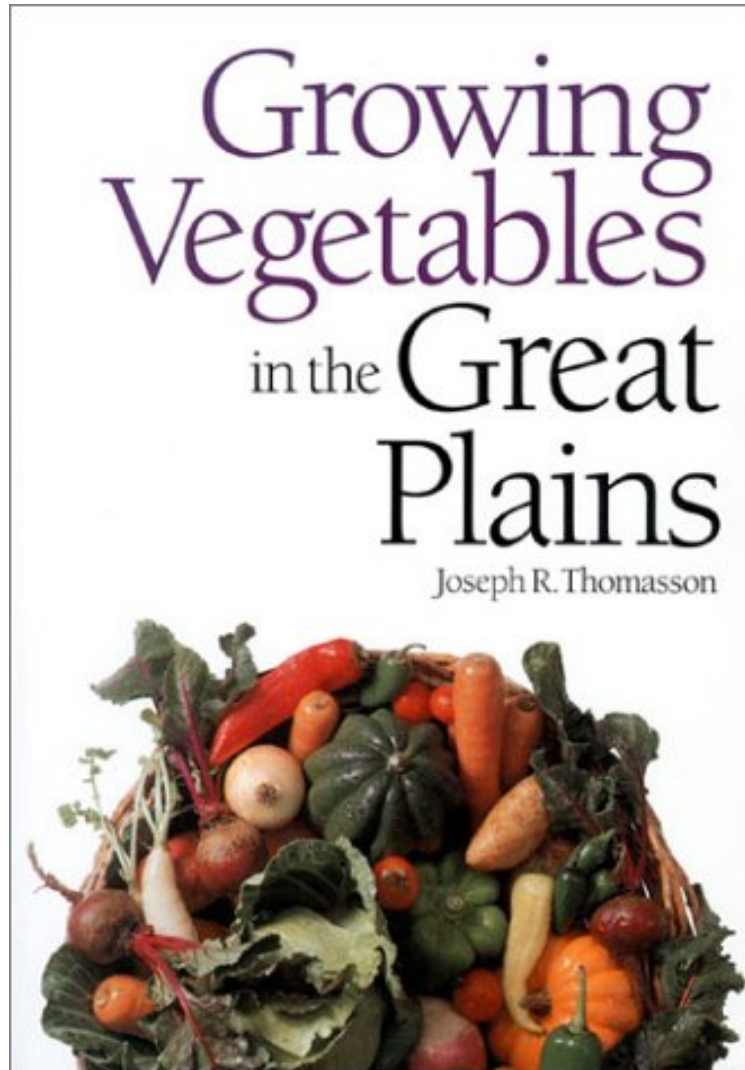


Growing Vegetables in the Great Plains

Joseph R. Thomasson

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Joseph R. Thomasson : Growing Vegetables in the Great Plains before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Growing Vegetables in the Great Plains:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy CustomerI great book with a lot of useful information.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Excellent resource for Great Plains gardenersBy Aggie40I bought this book 10 years ago and it is still my number one resource. I also use the Better Homes Gardens New Garden Book and a couple of 20 Minute Gardener books, but Growing Vegetables in the Great Plains has the most relevant and useful information for gardening in the Plains environment. This includes coping with wind, hail, drought, pests, diseases and various soil conditions. There are specific instructions and tips for planting and harvesting

a large variety of vegetables. Among the color photos, you will see a hailed out garden which rebounded, watering techniques and tomatoes being harvested as it snows. If you are a Plains gardener, especially a novice or average gardener, you need this book.

The Great Plains may be the breadbasket of the nation, but it's a tough place to grow vegetables. Damaging spring winds, unpredictable hail storms, and late freezes combine with scorching summer heat, parched ground, and hordes of plant-destroying insects to ravage the crops of unwary gardeners. But a bountiful Plains garden, brimming with luscious tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, carrots, squash, and beans, is an achievable goal, according to botanist Joseph Thomasson. Even cool season vegetables like celery, head-lettuce, peas, and broccoli can be grown successfully if you know how. Thomasson describes exactly how in this practical new gardening guide. His advice, tested in 18 years of backyard gardening throughout the region, is tailored for gardeners in the Great Plains from North Dakota to Texas, from the Rocky Mountain foothills to Iowa and Missouri. First Thomasson focuses on the big picture, sizing up the particular climactic problems of the region and describing how gardeners can cope. He lists best-adapted plant varieties, including his favorites, and offers detailed advice about such gardening essentials as soil preparation, planting, water conservation, and more. He also provides a key to identifying pests and diseases and tells what to do about them. Then he moves closer for a look at the little picture. Why is a pumpkin leaf "scratchy?" How do plants breathe? Through the highly magnified images of scanning electron microscopy, Thomasson provides a unique perspective on the microscopic wonders of the garden, from a bee's stinger to cucumber pollen.

"For vegetable gardeners, Thomasson tames the Great Plains. His clear, reasonable, step-by-step illustrated handbook, embodying his own backyard experiences, is the very first to provide reliable and practical coaching for vegetable gardeners of a very broad region, the Plains states." Frank Good, horticulture writer, *The Wichita Eagle* "This book is like nibbling on a home grown, crisp, tasty carrot. It is good reading for any gardener, but it's a must for someone who is new to the Great Plains. Even those who grew up here will find much information to enrich their gardening experience. I especially appreciate gardening in the wind, life after a hail storm, and the practical information on how to conserve water and combat grasshoppers and other pests. Following the directions in this book, you'll find that growing vegetables in the Great Plains is not too difficult at all!" Gus A. van der Hoeven, specialist in landscape and environmental horticulture, Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service "For vegetable gardeners, Thomasson tames the Great Plains. His clear, reasonable, step-by-step illustrated handbook, embodying his own backyard experiences, is the very first to provide reliable and practical coaching for vegetable gardeners of a very broad region, the Plains states." Frank Good, horticulture writer, *The Wichita Eagle* From the Back Cover "For vegetable gardeners, Thomasson tames the Great Plains. His clear, reasonable, step-by-step illustrated handbook, embodying his own backyard experiences, is the very first to provide reliable and practical coaching for vegetable gardeners of a very broad region, the Plains states." --Frank Good, horticulture writer, *The Wichita Eagle* "This book is like nibbling on a home grown, crisp, tasty carrot. It is good reading for any gardener, but it's a must for someone who is new to the Great Plains. Even those who grew up here will find much information to enrich their gardening experience. I especially appreciate 'gardening in the wind,' 'life after a hail storm,' and the practical information on how to conserve water and combat grasshoppers and other pests. Following the directions in this book, you'll find that growing vegetables in the Great Plains is not too difficult at all!" --Gus A. van der Hoeven, specialist in landscape and environmental horticulture, Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service About the Author Joseph R. Thomasson has published articles in the *National Gardening Magazine*, *The Explorer*, and *Time-Life Books*. He is professor of botany at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas.