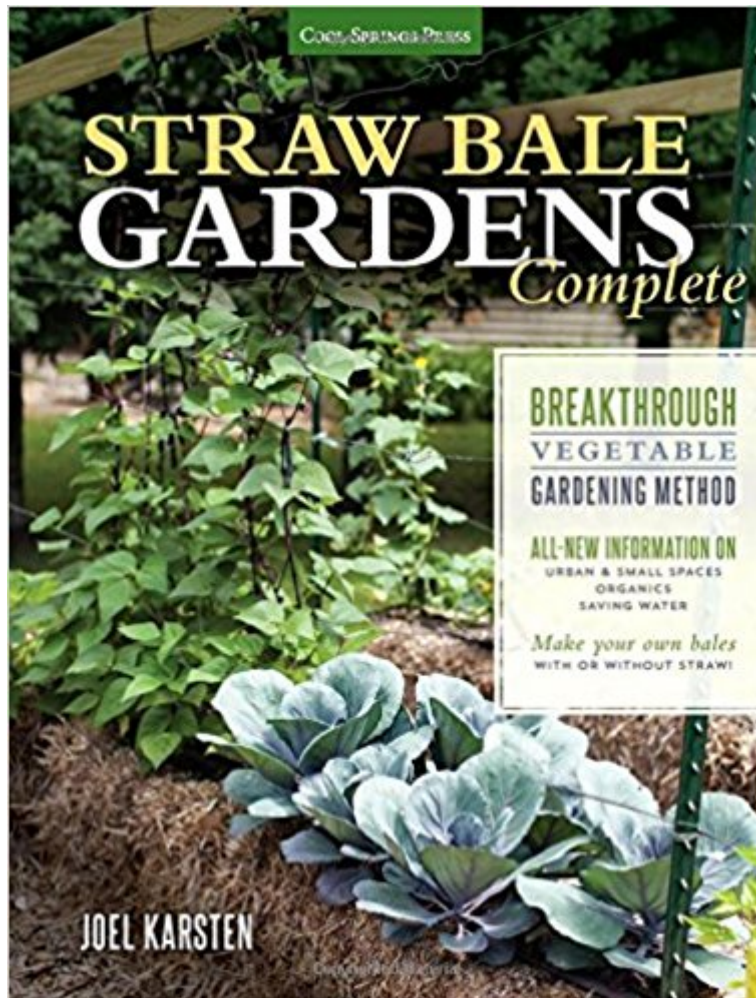




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# Straw Bale Gardens Complete



## Synopsis

"Are you ready to learn about a transformative garden technology that could change your life - for less than \$100?" - New York Times Take your straw bale gardening to the next level - in more places, with new products, and even, sometimes, skipping the straw! The reception and enthusiasm for straw bale gardening, introduced in 2013, has proved revolutionary in vegetable growing. Why? Because the bold promises in the book are kept: grow vegetables anywhere, earlier in the year, with no weeding. Gardeners everywhere are excited. Straw bale gardening works! In just the short amount of time that has passed, the gardening world and Joel Karsten himself have learned even more about how to apply this method in just about any environment: on a city balcony, in a rocky outpost, in a desert, and even in the tundra of Alaska. Straw Bale Gardens Complete contains all of the original information that has set the gardening world on fire. But it also goes much deeper, with nearly 50 pages of all-new advice and photos on subjects such as growing in a tight urban setting, making your straw bale garden completely organic, and using new fertilizers and conditioning products. There is even information on using straw bale techniques to grow veggies in other organic media for anyone who has a hard time finding straw. Fans of Straw Bale Gardens will not want to miss adding Straw Bale Gardens Complete to their gardening library. There is, literally, nothing else like it!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Straw Bale Gardening (SBG) is a revolutionary gardening method which Joel has enthusiastically perfected and trialled over the last 15 years; his passion for the subject, as well as the many

benefits of gardening using this technique are truly inspiring and exciting to read."

Straw Bales: Nature's Perfect Planting Container - Straw Bale Gardens . . . - Get High Yields- Never Need Weeding- Do Not Require Soil- Extend Growing Season by Weeks- Can Be Conventional or 100% Organic: Your Choice- Can Go Anywhere: Even Balconies and Driveways

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The reviews here seem to be mostly "plan to, want to, expect to". I'll make this short and sweet...I put in two bales this year as a trial and the results were not good...there were incredibly good!!!! put in four tomatoes, three peppers, a zucchini, and a lemon cucumber on two bales, consciously trying to stress the concept to see what it would deliver. I will never garden any other way! The plants all grew rapidly and have been exuberantly productive. In addition, for the first time in 25 years living in this location (San Francisco Peninsula), I have not had to fight the slugs and snails! One tried to climb the bale but gave up. What a relief to be freed of that struggle. We're waiting for the huge crop of tomatoes to ripen while we harvest zucchini, cucumbers, and peppers. I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Karsten's book!

This book has revolutionized how I garden. I have a 40x14 foot greenhouse and extensive outdoor gardens. However, I live high in the Rocky Mountains and my soil is nothing more than crushed shale. It costs me an arm and a leg to haul in compost every year and since my property is all pasture I don't have the luxury of leaves for massive amounts of compost. I started using straw bales for part of my garden last summer and I was stunned. It was the best garden I've ever had here. And at the end of the season we moved the wet, partially composted bales to the flower gardens and let them compost over the winter. Because the inside of the bales is warm from all the compost I was able to start plants a full 30 days before the normal season, with the help of a frost blanket on cold nights. I've brought in all straw bales for this summer and have already planted my spring crop in the greenhouse. This summer I'm adding Azomite dust and fungus to the bales, along with red earth worms. I think I'll end up planting half of my gardens in straw bales each year. Then use the leftover, partially composted bales to enrich my poor soil so I'll be gardening half in amended soil and half in bales each year. It's less expensive than hauling in compost and **MANY FEWER** weeds!

The book is GREAT, the concept is still being figured out because you can't really plant as many

items per bale as he implies. The prep work isn't as bad as pulling weeds only to deal with gophers and the such. I am letting the bugs do as they will as it seems so natural to do so. I'm planning on doing much much more of this type of gardening, just not putting as many plants on one bale as the end up shading each other too much. The zucchini out of the side is AWESOME

I really liked this book. All my previous efforts at trying to have a garden didn't really work out. So this is new and seems different. Although, not to say gardening isn't a lot of work and can be expensive, once you have everything you need, you're good to go. So, the bales I bought at the feed store were cheaper than what was offered online. I still need to buy other supplies mentioned in this book. I'm getting a late start, but living in the West, I have lots of sunshine ahead. Planning also for late summer and early fall planting. I will do another review in the future about whether this method of gardening works better or not.

4 Months after getting the book I can say this method works great. We tried the straw bale and cannot believe the results so far in 2013.. we are in Minnesota and with tilled clay soil always had a uninspiring crop. A lot of fruit on the vine and hope they all ripen and taste great..TBD..The basil has the best we ever tasted and so aromatic..Do recommend this process and are planning to expand for 2014Oct 2 2013 UPDATE: This was the best veggie garden we have had. The only problem is that we had tried to many different plants in two straw bales.Crops that grew very tall ( Basil and tomatoes)overshadowed the smaller height plants like carrots and onions. We will extend the bales next year and have a section for smaller plants by themselves. Otherwise the plants liked the conditions. It is important to keep the watering up at least every couple days.. For a first year experiment thumbs up..

We have hard, pretty sterile, mountain/forest land and wanted to try this idea instead of bringing huge amounts of soil in and making raised beds. The book is easy to understand, but the actual building of the garden was a bit of a learning experience. Forcing the fertilizer into the straw bales for the first few days was messier than we anticipated as the bales were so tightly baled that it seemed almost impossible to do without becoming drenched. Rubber boots are a necessity if doing this on bare dirt. Over grass is a better option, if available. After the 10 days of conditioning, we felt we were finally pros at it. The planting guide and plant suggestions were very good. The garden is growing well and we were able to get a 2 week head start on what is a normal growing season in our mountains because of the heat generated around the seeds and seedlings.. Hoping that this

garden produces more than the other tries at it.

Gives the basics of setting up straw bales for gardening. If you have never gardened at all, and have never harvested or used some veggies, you'll like some of the chapters on the needs and uses of many vegetables. We're setting up just 3 bales as an experiment this season, to see if we can grow tomatoes without damage from early blight. The idea is to get them away from open soil, where the blight fungus dwells.

March 2017Wow what a wonderful find! My friend had the earlier version which I looked through and feel in love with. This concept just makes so much sense. So when I went looking for the book I saw that they had the updated version - Straw Bale Gardens (Complete) I am glad that I got this book because it has all of what the original book has and more. I am so excited to try this out this season I will try to give an update of how it goes

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