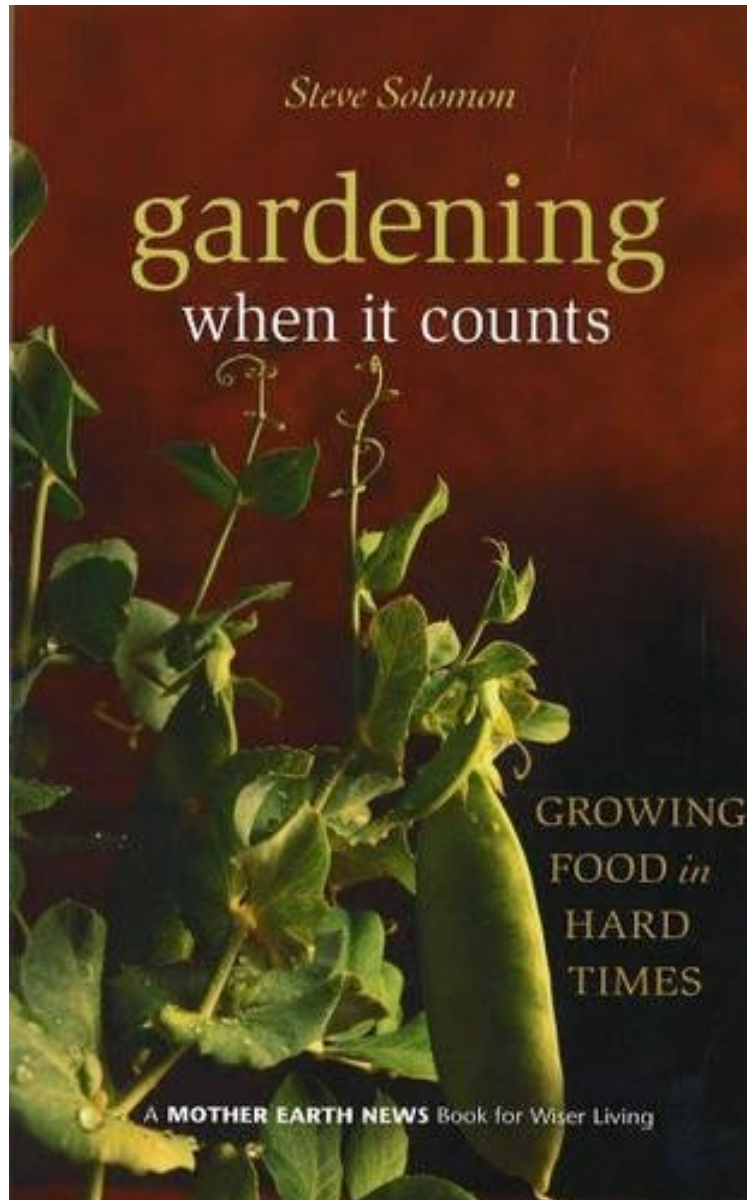


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Gardening When It Counts: Growing Food in Hard Times (Mother Earth News Wisser Living Series)

Steve Solomon

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Steve Solomon : Gardening When It Counts: Growing Food in Hard Times (Mother Earth News Wisser Living Series)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Gardening When It Counts: Growing Food in Hard Times* (Mother Earth News Wiser Living Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Utterly indispensable and realistic. If you could only own one gardening book, this would be the one! By The Diesel Guy Absolutely the most realistic gardening book ever written! Solomon does not write about backyard edenistic gardening that seemingly requires no more effort than ordering from the "seed porn" catalogs--he discusses all the things that will go wrong, and crucially, WHY--and then how to fix it. (HINT: hard work is involved) He's founded a few organic seed companies, so he knows his agronomy, but he explains it very well to the neophyte. He also reveals some of the dirty secrets of the seed industry, not because it's sensationalistic; they're teaching points that will help you grow food when not being able to do so means you will starve. I have nearly a thousand dead tree books at home, but if the house ever catches fire, this is one of the five books I am grabbing when I leave. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The only book you need to learn how to garden well when it counts. By skmontgomery This is by far the best book for anyone getting into gardening. The author writes in a way that anyone can follow even though he goes into in depth discussions on the science behind growing food. Steve has a witty humor and down to earth writing style. I highly recommend this book to anyone getting into gardening, looking to expand on the gardening knowledge, wanting to know how to garden when SHTF, or just wanting a good read. I have used all of Steve's techniques with success and have gardened for over 12 years in very diverse and at times inhospitable conditions with great success. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The author sounds like a jerk, but he knows what he is talking about By Nicole Well, *mostly* he knows what he is talking about. Those of us with decades of gardening experience in clay are of course astonished to find out we weren't really growing anything all along. If you are learning gardening, though, there are two reasons you should buy this book: 1) The chapter on compost alone is worth the price of the book. He wrote a whole book on compost, but alas it is out of print and I can't find a copy. 2) Everyone is writing these ridiculous books about how you can grow 50 plants in a square millimeter with no labor! It's the latest gardening trend, but it's not true. Hobby gardeners can drive down to the big box store and buy another bag of Miracle Grow and ignore the cost, but if your garden is to actually feed you, and feed you long term, you must ignore 90% of the content of those books. This book provides a much needed counterweight -- your personal garden will need tips and tricks from many sources, and this should be one of them. I don't agree with a lot of his advice, but this book still earns a permanent place on my bookshelf next to with Coleman's "Four Season Harvest," Ashworth's "Seed to Seed" and Jeavons' "How to Grow More Vegetables."

The decline of cheap oil is inspiring increasing numbers of North Americans to achieve some measure of backyard food self-sufficiency. In hard times, the family can be greatly helped by growing a highly productive food garden, requiring little cash outlay or watering. Currently popular intensive vegetable gardening methods are largely inappropriate to this new circumstance. Crowded raised beds require high inputs of water, fertility and organic matter, and demand large amounts of human time and effort. But, except for labor, these inputs depend on the price of oil. Prior to the 1970s, North American home food growing used more land with less labor, with wider plant spacing, with less or no irrigation, and all done with sharp hand tools. But these sustainable systems have been largely forgotten. *Gardening When It Counts* helps readers rediscover traditional low-input gardening methods to produce healthy food. Designed for readers with no experience and applicable to most areas in the English-speaking world except the tropics and hot deserts, this book shows that any family with access to 3-5,000 sq. ft. of garden land can halve their food costs using a growing system requiring just the odd bucketful of household waste water, perhaps two hundred dollars worth of hand tools, and about the same amount spent on supplies working an average of two hours a day during the growing season. Steve Solomon is a well-known west coast gardener and author of five previous books, including *Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades* which has appeared in five editions.

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Solomon is a well-known west coast gardening guru, and author of five previous books. The founder of Territorial Seed Company, he has taught Master Gardener and Urban Farm classes at the University of Oregon in Eugene. His book, *Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades* has appeared in five editions.