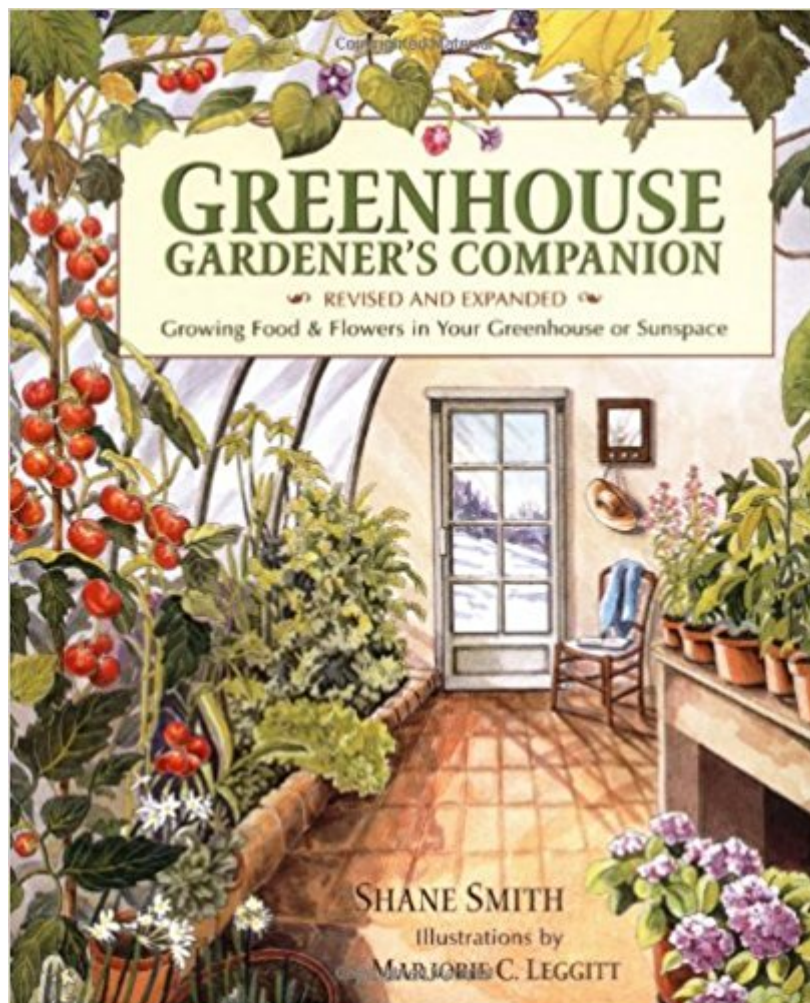




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Greenhouse Gardener's Companion, Revised: Growing Food & Flowers In Your Greenhouse Or Sunspace



Synopsis

The most comprehensive book on greenhouse gardening available today. Today, greenhouses and sunrooms are real living spaces where gardeners spend as much time with a book and a cup of coffee as they do with a watering can and a pair of pruning shears. In this fully revised edition of a best-selling classic, veteran gardener Shane Smith embraces this new "lifestyle" approach to greenhouse gardening. Through lively writing that balances wit with commonsense advice, Smith draws on his more than 20 years' experience to cover everything you need to know to establish a charming and productive greenhouse.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There's something refreshing about a gardening book that doesn't start out with soil. Smith (The Bountiful Solar Greenhouse) puts off the nitty-gritty subject until chapter nine. In the meantime, he covers such subjects as vegetables, flowers and herbs, light and temperature, ground beds and containers, and crop spacing and scheduling. This is not a complicated book; the operative word for it is "companion." And while some of the advice is rather elementary, it does lead the reader painlessly through the steps and requirements of owning and gardening in a greenhouse.

Undoubtedly, Smith's role as a lecturer and host of a radio gardening show has also inspired him to write in terms simple enough for beginners. His saving grace is a quiet sense of humor that's evident throughout the book--from his warnings about weather to his "biased opinion of hydroponics." When Smith does get around to soil, he goes at it from the point of view of providing plants with a healthy root system--covering soil pH and nutrients and organic soil amendments in

beds and pots. The extensive final chapter is devoted to everything that can go wrong--i.e., pests and diseases, for which Smith recommends mostly organic and biologic controls. As he points out, a "greenhouse or sunroom garden is probably the closest garden you'll ever live with." This is a book to live with. Illustrated. Garden Book Club alternate. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The director of Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and author of *The Bountiful Solar Greenhouse* (LJ 4/15/82) has produced a practical, comprehensive guide to making the most of any greenhouse or garden room. Addressing almost every aspect except the actual construction, Smith covers the greenhouse environment (light, humidity, temperature), interior design (plant placement, fans, drainage), individual plants and their propagation, pollination, growth, and scheduling for flower or fruit production. There are chapters on problems, diseases, and insects, and lists of associations, mail-order suppliers, and sun averages during the year across the country. As a Wyoming gardener, he puts a good deal of emphasis on using the greenhouse in summer as well as in winter, but this is a useful, practical guide for readers in most of the continental United States.- Molly Newling, Piscataway P.L., N.J. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a great book for basic information on greenhouse gardening but I would have preferred more information on general bedding lay-outs and less information on using barrels of water to generate more solar heat. Since I live in the desert that information seemed fairly redundant for my needs and was quite extensively covered in the book. The materials used in the book are very affordable as are suggestions for maximizing your growing space and creating the most productive garden possible. It also covered some areas in standard outdoor gardening, but again, I was interested in the greenhouse specifics and think that a future book focusing on only greenhouse methods with more versatility for desert coverage as well would be even more beneficial. Good book in general and well written!

Actually the title says it all. I wish I had time to read lots of books about greenhouse gardening but I don't. An experienced gardener, I'm new to greenhouse gardening and struck gold when I bought this book. It isn't dumbed down and is fast and fun to read. The book doesn't begin at square one but does explain the important differences between gardening in an outside garden and a greenhouse. One example; the reason fans are needed during the day (while photo synthesis is

taking place) is to prevent a CO2 deficient envelope from surrounding the leaves. Also, explanation of how to pollinate in an environment with no birds or insects is helpful. Varieties of vegetables and flowers are discussed and why certain ones are better suited. Trouble shooting and "when things go wrong" chapters are good. Also, I learned more than I thought was possible about light and the different qualities of light plants need. Again, advice on when a less expensive alternative will work was very welcome. I'm so happy I bought this book BEFORE our greenhouse is complete because the chapters on design and environment have given me a master plan for the space we have. Also, throughout the book are money saving ideas and words of warning from experience. This author knows his subject inside out, is very good at communicating and doesn't use 100 words when 50 will do. Buy the book-you won't be disappointed!

I just became interested in having a green house this year. This book helped with the types of greenhouses available and how to lay a permanent foundation. Most kit greenhouses are held down with tent stakes. This book recommended otherwise. It gives a lot of plant information, dirt recipes, and other important information. I highly recommend this book.

Whenever I open this book I learn something new and valuable. The author clearly has years upon years of experience professionally growing and hobbyist growing. All concepts involving growing plants, the plants themselves, and what to buy are detailed in polite, plain english with no fuss. I love the tone.

I am a beginner at gardening. This book is very detailed about greenhouses to the design. It was more than I am looking for so I returned it.

This is a great reference book on building greenhouses and growing plants in the greenhouse. I am a beginner at greenhouse gardening and am finding this book invaluable, and chock full of great information, as well as references as to where to find resources for seeds, and greenhouse supplies. Hats off to the author, wonderful job!!! A must for every garden library!!!

Shane Smith gives important basic information about passive solar design and production in a winter growing space. When I first started out, four years ago, it was the one book I was flipping through daily. I grow vegetables in winter in Minnesota, so I figured a guy in Wyoming would understand my challenges of weather conditions and day length. This made his planting schedules

a useful tool. I did read this one cover to cover and then referenced certain sections again and again in those first two years. If you are thinking about building a greenhouse or just got one, add this book to your library and you won't be sorry. He'll show you how to save some money by applying passive solar design elements to your structure that will save you money in heating costs and make your growing space more productive and fun. As to the comments one reviewer posted about Smith's aversion to hydroponics, I happen to concur with the author. I like working with soil. I don't care if hydroponics has gone "organic." It still creates waste water that must be dealt with and lacks the beneficial fungus interactions that soil provides for plant roots on a cellular level. At least Smith's upfront about his preference and there are plenty of resource materials out there for folks who want to work with hydroponic systems. This book is a plain and simple introduction to greenhouse growing that makes it accessible to beginners. I still flip through it from time to time and always find some tidbit I can use to improve things in my own growing space.

Excellent! Received the greenhouse for Christmas - a total surprise. I'm a beginner outdoor gardner. This easy-to-read, spiced with humorous comments, and VERY informative book has been my guide to managing my greenhouse. The book is packed with charts/tables that summarize information about sowing, planting, transplanting plants, etc. It covers vegetables and flowering plants. There are example record-keeping pages. It has straight-forward information about the greenhouse environment. I also use it as a reference for growing vegetables in our outdoor vegetable beds. There is so much information that even an experienced greenhouse gardener will pick up useful facts and tips.

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