The first frost used to be the end of the vegetable gardening season — but not anymore! In The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener, Nova Scotia–based gardener and writer Niki Jabbour shares her secrets for growing food during every month of the year. Her season-defying techniques, developed in her own home garden where short summers and low levels of winter sunlight create the ultimate challenge, are doable, affordable, and rewarding for gardeners in any location where frost has traditionally ended the growing season.

Vegetable gardens can be designed for flavor AND fun! Niki Jabbour, author of the best-selling The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener, has collected 73 plans for novel and inspiring food gardens from her favorite superstar gardeners, including Amy Stewart, Amanda Thomsen, Barbara Pleasant, Dave DeWitt, and Jessi Bloom. You’ll find a garden that provides salad greens 52 weeks a year, another that supplies your favorite cocktail ingredients, one that you plant on a balcony, one that encourages pollinators, one that grows 24 kinds of chile peppers, and dozens more. Each plan is fully illustrated and includes a profile of the contributor, the story behind the design, and a plant list.

From early spring tilling and seeding through summer bounty to late fall harvest and cleanup, the author shadows ten young people, ages four to 14, as they grow some of their own foods. Each young person’s focus is somewhat different. Josie aspires to become a chef, so she grows ingredients for new recipes. Jenna grows corn the way her First Nations ancestors have always grown it. Bradley enters his produce and preserves into a country fair. Espoir has a garden in containers. Sage grows all the ingredients for one meal of vegan soup and pumpkin pie while her sister Enna, at age four, helps her grandmother. Doukhobor brothers Cale and Quinn raise sixty chickens for eggs and meat. Keira and Benn produce enough food to give some away. Benn also supplies the pumpkins for Halloween fun. What emerges is a book that will delight experienced growers and encourage new gardeners to try their hand at growing fresh foods. The book features sidebars with relevant information, charts, a few garden journal pages, photographs and other visual images, recipes, even garden-related jokes.
Across North America, an agricultural renaissance is unfolding. A growing number of market gardeners are emerging to feed our appetite for organic, regional produce. But most of the available resources on food production are aimed at the backyard or hobby gardener who wants to supplement their family’s diet with a few homegrown fruits and vegetables. Targeted at serious growers in every climate zone, Sustainable Market Farming is a comprehensive manual for small-scale farmers raising organic crops sustainably on a few acres.

The urban landscape has swallowed vast swaths of prime farmland across North America. Imagine how much more self-reliant our communities would be if 30 million acres of lawns were made productive again. Permaculture is a practical way to apply ecological design principles to food, housing, and energy systems; making growing fruits, vegetables and livestock easier and more sustainable.

Many gardeners fear chickens will peck away at their landscape, and chicken lovers often shy away from gardening for the same reason. But you can keep chickens and have a beautiful garden, too! Fresh eggs aren’t the only benefit — chickens can actually help your garden grow and thrive, even as your garden does the same for your chickens.

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