



# Vertical Gardening: Grow Up, Not Out, for More Vegetables and Flowers in Much Less Space

*Derek Fell*

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The biggest mistake gardeners make each season is starting out too big and then quickly realizing their large plot requires too much weeding, watering, and backbreaking labor. Vertical gardening guarantees a better outcome from the day the trowel hits the soil—by shrinking the amount of "floor" space needed and focusing on climbing plants that are less prone to insects, diseases, and animal pests.

Notable author and gardener Derek Fell has tried and tested thousands of varieties of vegetables, flowers, and fruits and recommends the best plants for space-saving vertical gardening. His grow-up, grow-down system also shows which ground-level plants make good companions underneath and alongside climbing plants. Best of all, many of Fell's greatest climbers and mutually beneficial plants are available in seed packets in every local garden center.

With a mix of DIY and commercially available string supports, trellises, pergolas, raised beds, skyscraper gardens, and topsy-turvy planters, the vertical garden system reduces work, increases yields, makes harvesting easier, and can be practiced in spaces as small as a container or a one-by-four-foot strip. *Vertical Gardening* features 100 color photos of the author's own vertical methods and showcases beautiful, troublefree perennials, shrubs, vegetables, annuals, and fruit perfect for this new, rewarding way to garden.

## Vertical Gardening: Grow Up, Not Out, for More Vegetables and Flowers in Much Less Space Details

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## **From Reader Review Vertical Gardening: Grow Up, Not Out, for More Vegetables and Flowers in Much Less Space for online ebook**

### **Cory Reynolds says**

Not a bad overview - lots of good ideas for a small vertical garden space

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### **Barbara says**

Love it! Lots of practical advice and inspiration.

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### **Heather says**

It is a good book but it contains a lot of information that I would consider good for beginner gardeners. It would be a great book for beginners. Although I did find good info on vertical gardening. He also tends to repeat himself sometimes through out the book. so I found myself skimming a fair bit.

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### **Elisabeth says**

A bit repetitions (okay, a lot) but I gleaned some good information. I'm excited to grow climbing spaghetti squash next year!!

I'll be honest...I totally skipped the end chapters about decorative vines. I. Do. Not. Care.

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### **Meghan says**

Great resource - trying a few different trellising techniques b/c of this book. Contains a comprehensive list of edibles and ornamentals for trellising, good info on building your own trellises, as well as helpful time and money-saving techniques. Plenty of photographs but I wish they were all colour instead of mostly black and white.

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### **Erin Stuhlsatz says**

Whenever I hear the word "gardening", I always think "vegetable gardening". I have a really hard time understanding why people like to grow things they can't eat. It's a failing of mine, I know.

I was very disappointed by this book because only half of it was about things you can eat. That is approximately 100% less food gardening than I wanted. There also wasn't anything really new. The pictures were pretty, though.

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### Allie says

I've got so many ideas for next year, and, although I took copious notes, I'll definitely have to check it out from the library again.

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### Rachel says

Wonderful book. Great list of foods and other plants that can be grown using trellises of one sort or another. I appreciated the additional personal comments added to some of the plants Derek added to this book.

I borrowed this from the library and now have to get it for my home collection so I can start marking it up.

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### Aysha says

I was disappointed, having heard the author interviewed on "You Bet Your Garden." Was expecting more pictures, particularly of ideas for vertical gardening in more extreme climates. Far too many of his photos are of adorable English cottage gardens, which are lovely, but difficult to transfer to my hot and drought-ridden Oklahoma garden. I don't need another set of instructions on how to build a raised bed or compost pile. The author gives recommendations for vegetable varieties appropriate for vertical gardening, but in one case that variety is one he says is unavailable unless you happen to be one of the people he shares seed with.

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### Lovelyn Bettison says

This book was quite informative. I've been trying to figure out the best way to use the limited space in my yard to grow vegetables and vertical gardening could very well be the solution.

The book clearly explains how to support vertical vining plants with techniques like trellises, arches, and netting. It also has a list of plants that you can grow vertically and what zones they grow in. It divides the plants into vegetables, fruits, and ornamentals. The book also explains how to compost and how to control pests without chemicals.

All and all it's a good starting point for a beginner like me.

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### Tanja says

Another book I wish I could give 3.5 stars too. Lots of helpful information. Fell nods to multiple gardening trends and incorporates them into his vertical approach to gardening. My only complaint I would say was that it was redundant in places (i.e., repeating the benefits of vertical gardening in pest control, etc.). The sketches of kinds of trellises were especially helpful.

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### **Naomi says**

Good information. Worth another read someday.

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### **Tim Beckenham says**

Good book. Great source of ideas, but as said for this book, it is very repetitive. Would've liked more illustrations, particularly about garden design, optimising sunlight

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### **Karen says**

A very practical guide to vertical gardening - I wish it had had more photos and a few more tips on training things like tomatoes to grow upwards. I had a search online after finishing this book and again wished for more photos of Fell's farm and some of the gardeners/garden designers he mentions here and there.

Lots of good ideas for how to make it work and the trellises and such do not seem overly complicated to fashion. I'm eager to give this a try!

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### **Kristina Seleshanko says**

Like so many gardening books, this one has a premise that really could be summed up in a single magazine article or blog post: Growing plants upwards, instead of letting them sprawl on the ground. The idea is certainly a space saving one - and has added benefits such as less tilling or conditioning of the soil. The author even claims that vegetables grown in this manner taste better - perhaps because more of the leaves get good sun exposure. The two best chapters give examples and how-tos for good growing supports, including trellises and stacking pots, and cover specific plants that are suitable for growing vertically. Some of the later may surprise certain readers, for they include hefty veggies like watermelons, muskmelons, and bigger squash. Oddly, while there is a photo of a melon hanging in a sling or hammock so that it doesn't fall off its vertically-grown vine, this method is mentioned briefly only once - in the watermelon paragraphs. It seems an odd omission not to talk about this in more depth. The rest of the chapters are basic gardening information like learning to compost, seed start, etc.

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