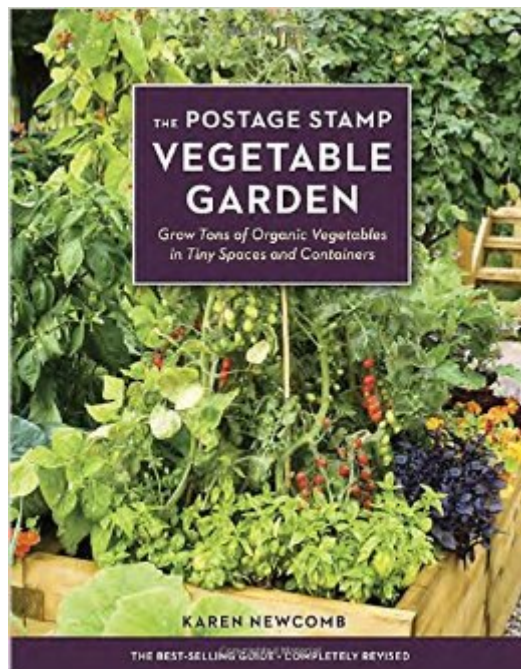


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# The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden: Grow Tons Of Organic Vegetables In Tiny Spaces And Containers



## Synopsis

One of the best books for beginning and experienced vegetable gardeners, this clear, straightforward, easy-to-read gardening bestseller (over 500,000 copies sold) uses organic, biodynamic methods to produce large amounts of vegetables in very small spaces. To accommodate today's lifestyles, a garden needs to fit easily into a very small plot, take as little time as possible to maintain, require a minimum amount of water, and still produce prolifically. That's exactly what a postage stamp garden does. Postage stamp gardens are as little as 4 by 4 feet, and, after the initial soil preparation, they require very little extra work to produce a tremendous amount of vegetables--for instance, a 5-by-5-foot bed will produce a minimum of 200 pounds of vegetables. When first published 40 years ago, the postage stamp techniques, including closely planted beds rather than rows, vines and trailing plants grown vertically to free up space, and intercropping, were groundbreaking. Revised for an all new generation of gardeners, this edition includes brand new information on the variety of heirloom vegetables available today and how to grow them the postage stamp way. Now, in an ever busier world, the postage stamp intensive gardening method continues to be invaluable for gardeners who wish to weed, water, and work a whole lot less yet produce so much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My sis and I are planting gardens this year. I am particularly excited about this, because this year, for the first time ever, my garden will actually be in a place that gets more than a few hours of sun

each day. I have been planning and scheming all winter, deciding which veggies I want to grow a lot of to preserve and which plants I want to grow just for fun. I love gardening. I love eating food and preparing food for my family that I grew myself. I do not necessarily love spending a lot of time working in the garden. Or rather, I think I would enjoy working in the garden more if I didn't have so many other summer-time responsibilities. Ms. Newcomb's postage stamp method minimizes work while maximizing yield, so I was excited to read *The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden* by Karen Newcomb. The Postage Stamp concept is similar to the Square Foot Gardening method. The idea is you can grow a lot of plants, therefore increasing yield, in a small area, by not planting in rows. Plants should be placed so that when they are 75% mature, plant leaves will just touch each other, which doesn't leave a lot of room for weeds, which means gardeners don't have to spend a lot of time weeding. Gardeners should make use of vertical space, training vining vegetables, like cucumbers, squash, beans, tomatoes, and peas, to grow up, freeing up more space in the garden. Ms. Newcomb provides a lot of good information on topics such as preparing the soil, how to compost, which plants benefit or harm each other when planted near each other, and how to recognize and deal with garden pests and plant diseases. I found this book to be helpful and inspiring. I won't follow every single bit of Ms.

After being buried in snow and ice for the last weeks of February and first week of March, I've been ready for spring. Happily, I've had the perfect book to fuel my fantasy of warm days and garden-fresh produce. Karen Newcomb has revised her 1975 best-seller *The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden: Grow Tons of Organic Vegetables in Tiny Spaces and Containers*. Newcomb advocates a method of gardening that produces unusually high yields of high-quality vegetables in tiny spaces by working hard on building up a rich, organic soil before planting and then coasting through the summer. In a postage stamp garden, plants are spaced closer together than the distance recommended by the seed packet and taller plants serve to shelter shorter ones from intense sun and evaporation. Newcomb also offers strategies for which plants can help replenish the soil and how to pair mutually beneficial crops. The author uses an upbeat and encouraging tone and writes passionately about a wide variety of heirlooms, making this book applicable to seasoned gardeners and motivated newbies. She makes a convincing case that produce raised on Miracle Grow is not nearly as delicious, healthful or safe as vegetables nourished with natural fertilizers. Half the book reads like a seed catalog with descriptions and growing tips of Newcomb's favorite heirlooms, from Cole crops to nightshades to root veggies to herbs. Descriptions of Blue Jade Sweet Corn and Sicilian Violet Cauliflower really spoke to the foodie in me. Aside from the full-color

cover, this paperback guide does not contain photographs. It does, however, include some illustrations on preparing the soil and creating cages and trellises for climbing vegetables.

The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden by Karen Newcomb is a best selling guide which has been newly and completely revised. This book will give the reader step by step in how to plan, create and maintain a small garden. This small garden could be large pots or containers on the patio or in the window of your house or as large as 10' by 10'. Ms Newcomb tells how the reader can obtain as much as 200 pounds of vegetables from a 5' by 5' garden if it is properly prepared and maintained. She includes information from picking your spot to harvesting your produce. This book can be easily used and understood by the beginning gardener but the experienced gardener also will easily pick up enough tips on improving their own gardening to make reading this book worth their time and energy. The original book was written 40 years ago at a time when this information was new. Now the author includes more information on choosing from the varieties of heirloom vegetables and using the organic tips which are easy and simple. Gardening can be expensive but this author tells several ways of doing for instance composting the cheapest and easiest way or using products which are one the market or even easier just buying compost in a bag from the nursery. She tells how to have a simple patio garden if the reader lives in the city to how the rural gardener can plan their 100 square foot garden. She uses the companion methods of planting vegetables with other vegetables, herbs, or flowers to improve production and lessen the work effort on the gardener. She even includes a list of seed sources for mail order purchase which would come in handy for the novice or someone wishing to go organic or just include vegetables more in line with their own location. I am an experienced gardener and I enjoyed this book.

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