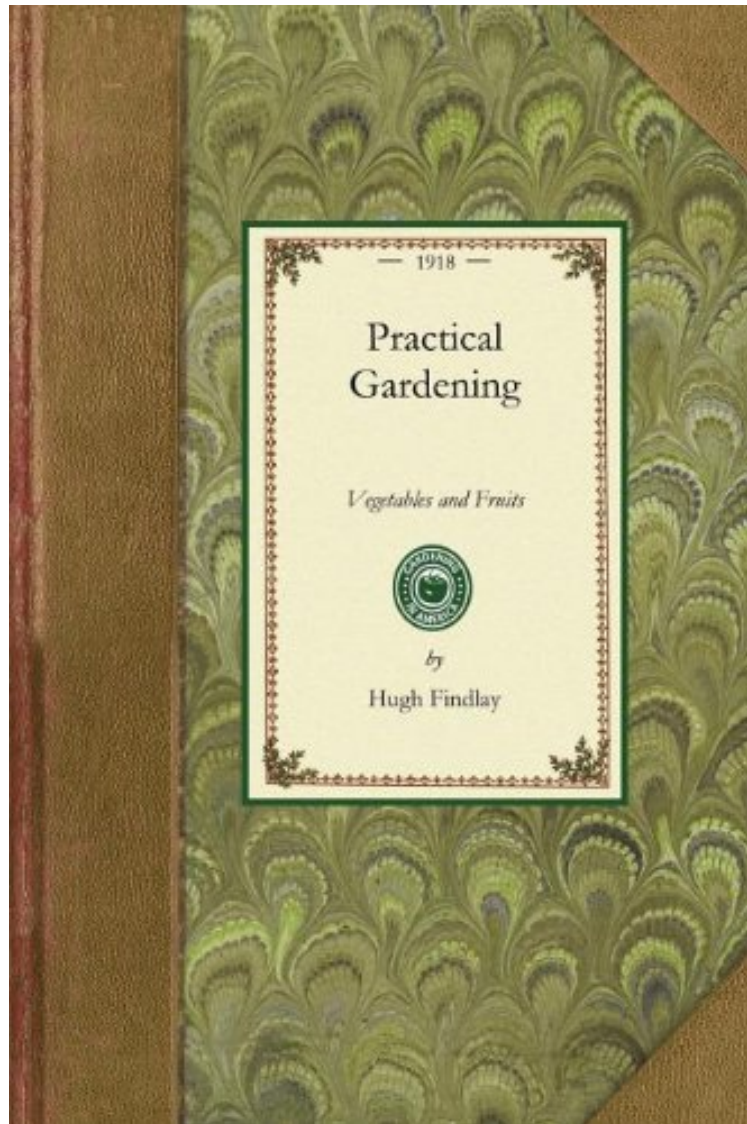


[FREE] Practical Gardening: Helpful Hints for the Home Garden, Common Mistakes, and How to Avoid Them (Gardening in America)

Practical Gardening: Helpful Hints for the Home Garden, Common Mistakes, and How to Avoid Them (Gardening in America)

Hugh Findlay

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Hugh Findlay : Practical Gardening: Helpful Hints for the Home Garden, Common Mistakes, and How to Avoid Them (Gardening in America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Practical Gardening: Helpful Hints for the Home Garden, Common Mistakes, and How to Avoid Them (Gardening in America):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Old time wisdom still quite relevant
By M. Swaim
When it comes to gardening and sustainable farming, it's really surprising how little is actually new knowledge vs. merely lost or displaced knowledge. As someone who is struggling to make the transition from backyard hobby gardener to micro farm market gardener, I'm intrigued that some of the most pertinent information comes from around the turn of the 20th century. This book was first published in 1918 and the major portions of it are as relevant to today's sustainable, organic farmer as they were back before those were common terms. Moderns might be surprised to know that intensive gardening and companion planting were practiced and perhaps even well known almost a hundred years ago. This book offers very detailed advice about how to succeed in what, at the time, was considered simple and essential self-sufficient food production on the backyard up to small farmstead scale. The first chapter ends with this: "The four principles to be considered in any Home Garden are (1) a sufficient supply of vegetables and fruits for summer and winter, (2) a continuous succession of crops that keeps the soil producing throughout the growing season, (3) economy in labor and especially cultivation, (4) maintenance of the productivity of the soil with proper application of manure. If these are carefully considered and practiced all soils may be made to produce." The next 25 chapters proceed to describe exactly how to achieve that with detailed chapters on soils and specific crops from apples to root crops and everything in between. The final chapter is titled "What to Do Month by Month" and it contains this bit: "These five principles are necessary in following the practice of intensive gardening: (1) Know the best time and method to plant each crop. (2) Know the length of time it takes each crop to mature. (3) Understand the spacing of the plants so they may develop perfectly. (4) Know the control methods in battling with insects and disease that appear on many of these late crops. (5) Have a general knowledge of the amount of moisture and the best food suited for each crop." And the heck of it is that if you've paid attention to the 300+ pages between the first quote and that second one, you'll have a pretty good understanding of what to do. I'd be curious to know how many more "modern" books on intensive gardening borrowed from this one. I'm surprised it's not more widely read. Frankly, I got as much or more out of reading this reference book as I did in an intensive eight week incubator farmer class. It would make a fine addition to any food producer's library. Recommended.

Hugh Findlay's 1918 work outlines for the home gardener the fundamental principles involved in growing a few select varieties of vegetables and choice fruits.