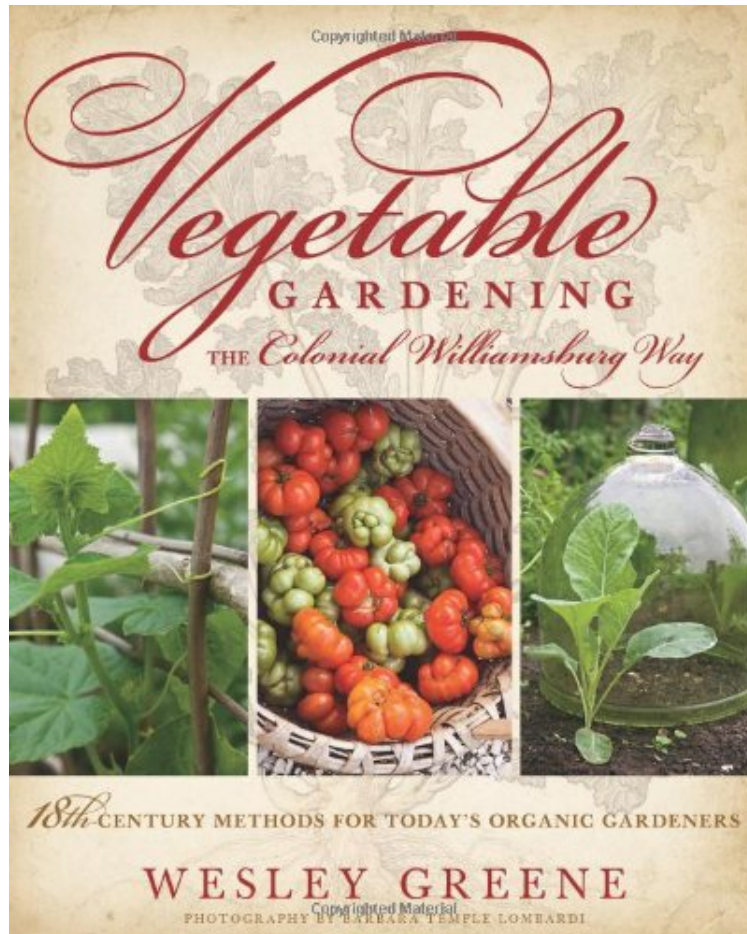


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Vegetable Gardening the Colonial Williamsburg Way: 18th-Century Methods for Today's Organic Gardeners

Wesley Greene

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Wesley Greene : Vegetable Gardening the Colonial Williamsburg Way: 18th-Century Methods for Today's Organic Gardeners before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vegetable Gardening the Colonial Williamsburg Way: 18th-Century Methods for Today's Organic Gardeners:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. outstanding book for the organic gardener, the history buff, or the food connoisseurBy ViolettaThis book surpassed my expectations. I ordered it mainly as a pleasant reminder of the beautiful gardens at Williamsburg, and also to learn more about heirloom tomatoes and organic gardening. It certainly satisfies those objectives, but it is also a fascinating account of what the early American settlers grew, what their attitudes were toward vegetables and fruits, and how the methods they used can still be applied today. The color photos are wonderful, and the text is historically accurate, full of quotes from eighteenth-century books on gardening,

and a delight to read. This is a book you won't want to put down once you start reading it. It's simply superb. The book is divided into 8 chapters, each of which deals with types of vegetables (including a few fruits): beans and peas, cabbage, salad greens, root crops, onions, cucumbers and melons, squash, pumpkins, and gourds, tomatoes and peppers. Then 3 more chapters discuss "luxuries and oddities" (such as artichokes), gardening under cover, and growing sticks. In each chapter there is a summary at the end that gives "essentials," such as planting directions, spacing, how to harvest seed, how to store it, and seed viability. Heirloom varieties are named whenever they exist. There are many ideas in this book that gardeners today can put into practice. One that I liked a lot is a "tomato table," which is built from sticks and keeps the tomatoes off the ground and within easy reach for picking. It's ingenious, and certainly better than using poles or cages. There are also remedies for common pests, such as "lime water" to control aphids. This is a book that will bring joy to gardeners, history buffs, and anyone interested in food. My next visit to Williamsburg will be even more fun, now that I know something about how the experts plant and tend the lovely gardens there.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Vegetable Gardening the Colonial Williamsburg Way: 18th-Century Methods for Today's Organic Gardeners By katie This is a beautiful book with great photos. I found a couple of vegetables in there I had never heard of before. I grew some tomatoes this year that look exactly like the ones on the front cover. I have some seeds for veggies I've never actually seen or tasted and found information for growing them in this book. I'm making plans and looking forward to using the new things I have learned as I keep trying more things in my small space. I'm praying for a farm!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Easy to read and full of information By BuzzBee I enjoyed the book for its photos and detailed history of the plants in question. It is well-written and a wealth of information to anyone interested in plant history (origins of various vegetables, salad greens and herbs) and how they were raised in early American (Colonial Williamsburg, VA) gardens. Even though I was disappointed that it did not cover the fruits (like apples, pears, figs and pomegranates) grown at Colonial Williamsburg I would still highly recommend it. They also detail the various heirloom vegetables under each category that are planted at that historic site. I read this book before I went to Colonial Williamsburg and felt that it increased my knowledge of my garden tour.

Vegetable Gardening the Colonial Williamsburg Way From the nation's foremost historical preservation site comes a guide to traditional and still relevant methods and advice for planting and tending a productive vegetable garden. In a colonial-style garden, the broccoli is purple and "turkey" cucumbers grow to three feet long; oiled paper predates plastic for sheltering spring plants; and fermenting manure warms the seedlings. Finding inspiration and value in 18th-century plants, tools, and techniques, the gardeners at Colonial Williamsburg have discovered that these traditional vegetable-growing methods are perfectly at home in today's modern organic gardens. After all, in the 18th century, organic gardening was the only type of gardening and local produce the only produce available. Author Wesley Greene founded the Colonial Garden in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area in 1996. He and his colleagues have painstakingly researched the ways the colonists planted and tended their vegetable and herb beds, most of which are more relevant than ever. Along with historical commentary and complete growing instructions for 50 delicious vegetables, including colonial varieties still available today, gardeners and folklorists will find weather-watching guidelines, planting techniques, and seedsaving advice for legumes, brassicas, alliums, root crops, nightshades, melons, squash, greens, and other curious and tender produce.

"Lovers of historical gardens will... appreciate VEGETABLE GARDENING THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG WAY: 18th-Century Methods for Today's Organic Gardeners, by the estimable Wesley Greene...[and] today's organic gardeners will discover much to admire in Barbara Temple Lombardi's photographs." About the Author Wesley Greene is the garden historian at Colonial Williamsburg, the 301-acre historic area that includes famed gardens and hundreds of historically furnished buildings. More than 100 million visitors have toured Colonial Williamsburg since 1932.