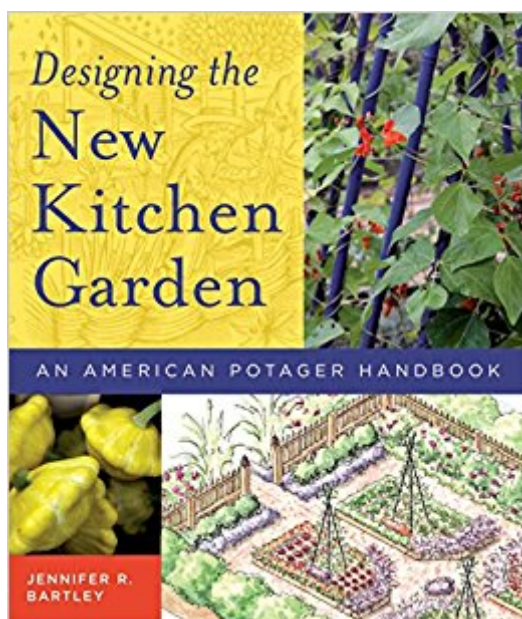


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# Designing The New Kitchen Garden: An American Potager Handbook



## Synopsis

Most gardeners know how rewarding it is to harvest ripe, sun-warmed tomatoes or pungent herbs straight from the garden. But those pleasures can be multiplied a hundredfold by creating a garden that is not only productive, but also a beautiful, well-integrated part of the home landscape. In this handsome volume, Jennifer Bartley shows how the traditional features of the classic kitchen garden, or potager, can be adapted to contemporary American needs and conditions. The book is informed by her conviction that the nurturing, preparing, and eating of fresh, home-grown vegetables contributes enormously both to our ties with the natural world and our ties to each other. Copiously illustrated with photographs and with the author's delightful watercolors, *Designing the New Kitchen Garden* offers the perfect blend of inspiration and practical guidance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although the tradition of a potager, or kitchen garden, dates back to the Middle Ages, its application in contemporary gardens is a concept whose time has come. For those concerned with the freshness and purity of fruits, vegetables, and herbs, having a bountiful garden just steps from one's kitchen is the ultimate guarantor of healthy eating. Creating these intricately patterned outdoor rooms, however, can perplex even the most accomplished gardeners. Understanding the form is essential to creating an authentic potager, and to that end, Bartley provides extensive historical background, tracing the potager's inception in medieval Europe to its development in modern-day France, where the practice of kitchen gardening has been raised to an art form. Liberally peppered

with dozens of detailed design plans from America's premier potagers, and augmented by comprehensive lists of suitable plants, Bartley's entertaining and educational guide to kitchen gardening provides well-documented support for everyone interested in establishing an edible garden in their own backyard. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

• Jennifer Bartley shares with us her love of gardening and of growing her own food. She takes us on a journey where food is an adventure from seed to table. She shows us in this book the history of living simply and being dependent on the land for not just food, but for a balancing of body, spirit, and soul.

• "Washington Gardener" • The entire book is lavishly illustrated with many color photographs and drawings that should inspire dedicated ornamental gardeners to become more involved with edible plants, so they can have their stylishness and eat it, too!

• "HortIdeas" • Throughout the book you'll find many easily made, charming garden structures, from blanching devices for rhubarb to wonderful tepees and wattle fencing. I can't wait to use them all in my own garden. Nearly every one of the chapters made me desperate to rush outside and get busy. I read this 222-page, information-packed book in one sitting.

• "The Oregonian" • My new favorite book from Timber Press. . . . It is a great book that is helping me learn about what I am doing.

• "Spartanburg Herald-Journal" • Keeping out destructive wildlife, creating winter interest, incorporating texture, color, and mood into the room partitions (walls, doorway and floor), and balancing the chaos of plants with the orderliness of structure; Bartley offers suggestions that will help the designer achieve all of these goals.

• "Buckeye" • Shows how the classic kitchen garden can be as beautiful as it is functional.

• "Cleveland Plain Dealer" • This lushly illustrated, 250-page hardback shows layouts for gardens planned to keep their visual appeal throughout the year, gardens that are virtually outdoor rooms.

• "Shelter Island (NY) Reporter" • Check out the stunning examples in this 222-page hardback, and then consider a new edible approach using some of this book's suggestions such as enclosing the kitchen garden and planting in modules instead of straight rows.

• "Harrisburg Patriot-News" •

This book is full of colored pictures, as well as, a couple of black and white. I love the lay outs for different gardens. I am planning on putting both a vegetable and herb garden near my back door in 2013; after looking at several ideals in the book - I can't wait to try them out! I was surprise to see that raised bed dated back to the 1500 era. I always thought it was a newer way of gardening. This book is really worth every penny I paid for it. And I don't think you will be disappointed buying it. In

the spring when I prune, I am hoping to have enough limbs and branches to make a small wooden bench similar to page 34 to put a tray of birdseed and a potted plant on it. The garden on page 55 makes me drool; I so wish I had that much land for a garden like that. I love all the rustic tepee structures threw out the book. Farther into the book talks about edible gardens; I have always loved that ideal and had it where I use to live. Just think you are out mowing the grass and come across your blueberry bushes or strawberries and pause to sample a few. That is so refreshing I can tell you from experience. Also, nothing is more pleasing then to sit near your gardens with a book and munch on the good things in life; plus the smells of herbs are heaven sent. Toward the back of the book is a listing of several seed companies, as well as, several gardens that are open to the public. With the stuff they are doing to our foods these days I think more and more people will be putting in gardens in their front and back yards, window sills, roof tops there is no limit to where you can plant a garden big or small. Plus, think of the health benefits you gain from fresh air and exercise in what should be a stress free space. This book is both for those who live in the city or country. I do hope you enjoy this book as much as I do. It is next to my couch so when I have a cup of tea and just want to relax I can look at it over and over. Happy gardening.

I have been designing gardens for several years, but since I am self taught, potagers were a new concept to me. I really enjoyed the historical background the author gave, but the most valuable parts of the book for me were the photos and design drawings. I got lots of good ideas for my own potager, and for friends who have been asking me for help in designing theirs. This book will not be a complete resource for a brand new gardener. She doesn't thoroughly cover things like soil prep, maintenance, harvest, or pest control (which is why I give the book four stars instead of 5). But if you have enough knowledge to handle these issues, you'll find this book to be all you need. If you need another book to cover these issues, I'd highly recommend Anna Pavord's book on Kitchen Gardens.

Wow what a great book! Exactly what I've been searching for. And I buy a LOT of books on gardening. Jennifer Bartley did a really good job on this one. I will keep this one on my night stand next to my graph paper and idea notepad, and maybe buy another to keep in the potting shed.

I'm getting ready to add a fairly large vegetable/flower garden to my property and this book has proved to be a life saver! Some of the hints that the author has given concerning design and placement, I will definitely be using. I also liked the historical information regarding how they used

and placed their gardens in medieval times. I am including some of the plants that were always in the gardens of the monasteries as a historical nod.(my house is over 200 years old) Overall, a great book for anyone just getting started and looking for some ideas!

Excellent ideas and plans for all kinds of locations, including a city version. I appreciated the author's inclusion of flowers along with her edible landscaping.

A great read with amazing photographs and ideas for personalizing your garden.

It fits with my permaculture ideas. the information and diagrams about the monastic gardens was very interesting.

The book arrived in excellent time and was in perfect condition, as promised. I have really enjoyed the garden ideas in this book and as a result now have my garden plot planned out. I am very pleased with who sent the book and their service, as well as the book and its content.

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