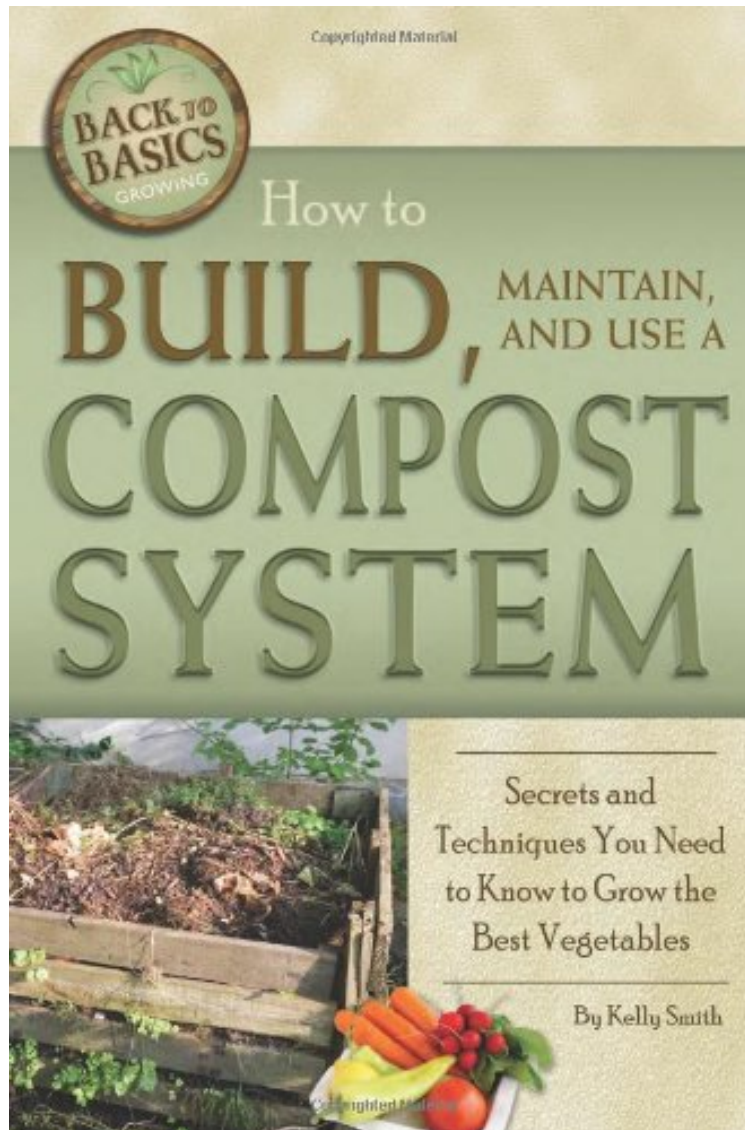


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How to Build, Maintain, and Use a Compost System: Secrets and Techniques You Need to Know to Grow the Best Vegetables (Back-To-Basics) (Back to Basics Growing)

Kelly Smith

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Kelly Smith : How to Build, Maintain, and Use a Compost System: Secrets and Techniques You Need to Know to Grow the Best Vegetables (Back-To-Basics) (Back to Basics Growing) before purchasing it in order to gage

whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *How to Build, Maintain, and Use a Compost System: Secrets and Techniques You Need to Know to Grow the Best Vegetables (Back-To-Basics) (Back to Basics Growing)*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Best Summary of Composting for Home Gardeners Yet
By Mikethegardener
The "perfect" book on home composting hasn't been written yet, but for now, this is as good as it gets. Closer to 5 stars than 4. The book both motivational and instructive. It's easy to read and follow even for someone new to composting, yet even someone experienced in many composting methods will find some good new tips and variations on old techniques. It contains well thought out reasons why home composting is important for our environment and beneficial to the home gardener, and clear explanations of many composting methods to choose from based on individual needs and capabilities. There's even a quite workable composting system suitable for display in one's living room! There are a few oversimplifications, mostly in the first couple chapters, but these are quite minor compared with the accurate, concise, logical instructions given on selecting and implementing simple, manageable and productive composting systems. The pros and cons of various methods are very well explained. I'm a detail-oriented composter, so, for example, I would have preferred to see scientific names (genus species) as well as common names for several of the more important "decomposers" (organisms such as bacteria, fungi, worms, arthropods, etc. that contribute to the process of breaking down organic matter into "finished" compost ready to be used in the garden), but Smith's descriptions of the roles of these organisms are clear and correct. The book doesn't delve very far into soil science, but that's not its purpose. I occasionally give talks on composting and will definitely be listing Smith's book as one of my references and recommendations for purchase. The illustrations are of quite satisfactory quality in the Kindle version.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Newbie Gardener Found a Helpful Book Here!
By BuyAlo
I am a newbie gardener, and this really helped me better understand the process of composting. I'm no expert, but I feel a lot more confident in starting this up. This book is full of how-to instructions with step-by-step lists for building compost bins or areas. It features a trouble shooting section that you can flip to if/when you run into an issue with your system. It also includes the chemical process and what to use (not use) for materials in your pile. There is also a chapter on worms and vermicomposting, which I don't think I'll do, but was interesting to read anyway. This is a 10 Chapter Book with a few appendices. Pictures (black and white) and some diagrams are included. Great buy! I would highly recommend I don't feel like I need another book on composting. This really seems to have it all.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Just what you need to know...
By LTRomanceReader
Not too complicated, too long, or basic. This is a great place to get started composting. Start now to be ready for spring planting. In this book, Kelly Smith makes composting accessible to anyone who is interesting. From indoor systems for those who live in apartments or condominiums to larger systems for those who want large amounts of healthy fertilizer for gardens, you can find the answers you need by reading the book. The contents balance the science you need to succeed with layman's terms so the process is easy to manage. She provides plans on building different styles of composting systems along with many helpful tables. The tables provide quick reference to the nutrient balance of different ingredients, the qualities of different systems, and many other topics. You don't have to read the book cover to cover to get the answers you want. In fact, Ms. Smith designed the book so that you can read the first couple chapters as your baseline and then skip around to the information you need for wherever you are at in the composting process. One of my favorite sections covers the myths of composting. Starting on page 23 you'll hear many of the common things people believe about preparing your own compost that simply aren't true. For example, I simply did not know that while earthworms are great in the garden, they aren't a good choice for an intense process like focused composting. This is just one myth that is dispelled making it easier for each person to get started, large or small, with their own composting projects. As with everything I've seen from Atlantic Publishing, the book is laid out well and the print is a pleasant size to read. I'm sure like many others I've read and recommended, you'll find this book a great addition to your gardening resources. No doubt you'll refer to it repeatedly over the years and get exceptional value for your investment in "How to Build, Maintain, and Use a Compost System."

Some of the best fertilizer on the planet can be made with your very own garbage. Starting with something as simple as coffee grounds a top composting product and including all of your old banana peels, bread crusts, and leftover meals, you can start creating a garden with your food waste from scratch, using the age old secret of composting to build a healthy, happy garden. Knowing the necessary steps to building and cultivating a compost bin will help anyone with a garden no matter its size cut down on waste, save money on fertilizer, and have fun learning more about the cycle all biodegradable matter goes through. This book provides a detailed outline of how anyone with a little extra space and a garden can start composting today to build their garden from scratch into a thriving jungle of roots, herbs, and vegetables. You will learn about all of the different ways that composting can be helpful to you, as well as the different reasons why people choose to compost and what you and your vegetables might best benefit from when you decide to make the leap and start composting yourself. You will learn how decomposition works and what the ideal conditions are for decomposition. You will learn which compostable materials are around you right now, from the coffee grounds in your coffee maker to the old fruit in your crisper. Learn about the different kinds of activators and

how they get the process started as well as the different composting materials used by home gardeners and professional composters alike dozens of which have been interviewed for this book. You will be walked through the process of recognizing and using the end product as effectively as possible. You will be walked through how you can effectively take your end product and start using it for various different vegetable types in your garden. Finally, you will be walked through the process of recognizing and using the end product as effectively as possible. For anyone who has ever considered composting as a viable means by which to feed their gardens, this book is for you. Atlantic Publishing is a small, independent publishing company based in Ocala, Florida. Founded over twenty years ago in the company president's garage, Atlantic Publishing has grown to become a renowned resource for non-fiction books. Today, over 450 titles are in print covering subjects such as small business, healthy living, management, finance, careers, and real estate. Atlantic Publishing prides itself on producing award winning, high-quality manuals that give readers up-to-date, pertinent information, real-world examples, and case studies with expert advice. Every book has resources, contact information, and web sites of the products or companies discussed. This Atlantic Publishing eBook was professionally written, edited, fact checked, proofed and designed. The print version of this book is 288 pages and you receive exactly the same content. Over the years our books have won dozens of book awards for content, cover design and interior design including the prestigious Benjamin Franklin award for excellence in publishing. We are proud of the high quality of our books and hope you will enjoy this eBook version.

I just finished reading *How to Build, Maintain And Use A Compost System* - By Kelly Smith. While I am not new to the concept of composting, having grown up in a family of farmers who actively composted, I found this book to be a thoroughly enjoyable read. This book will not only get you started in composting, but keep you going, and I highly recommend keeping it around as a reference guide. Though targeted at beginners, the book has something to offer everyone whether rank amateur or advanced expert. It goes through the whys, wherefores, and how to s of the most common, to the most advanced composting systems. Well researched and laid out, it progresses from the definition of composting, through the introduction of the individual composting systems and how to construct them, followed by more advanced sections on the inner workings of the individual systems and how to resolve problems that may sometimes crop up with them. The book is filled with helpful links and additional research material so that people may not only expand their knowledge, but connect with the wider community of composters from ecological warriors to those just looking to save money by composting for the enhancement of their own green spaces, or for the more ambitious make a profit by selling the fruits of their labour. I think my favourite part of the book though, are the case studies at the end of the chapters, most of which come from amateur composters. Composting gets a bad rap, from unsightly looks, to nasty smells, to being just too hard for the average individual to handle. These case studies show that composting can be done at any skill level, that it can be fun, and that problems can be resolved. It s all just a matter of perspective. Dirt is the foundation. It nourishes us all. If you take care to put the right things into it, then it will take care of you, that is what my boss, an organic farmer says about the soil he manages. Reading this book will not only help you to grow better vegetables, but provide you with the tools for enriching the soil, which will benefit us all. --Marie Johnson
About the Author Kelly Smith is an author, quilter, and container gardener. Her previous works include the book *Open Your Heart with Quilting* (Dreamtime, 2008), the magazine article *Let s Play in Quilters Home* magazine (Nov./Dec. 2008), and several quilt patterns for *QuiltingWeekly.com*. She is also the National Quilting Examiner for *Examiner.com* and writes about news and events of interest to quilters. In addition to non-fiction writing, Kelly writes short stories and novels, and maintains a blog at www.redheadedquilter.com. You can follow her on Twitter at www.twitter.com/quiltinredhead.