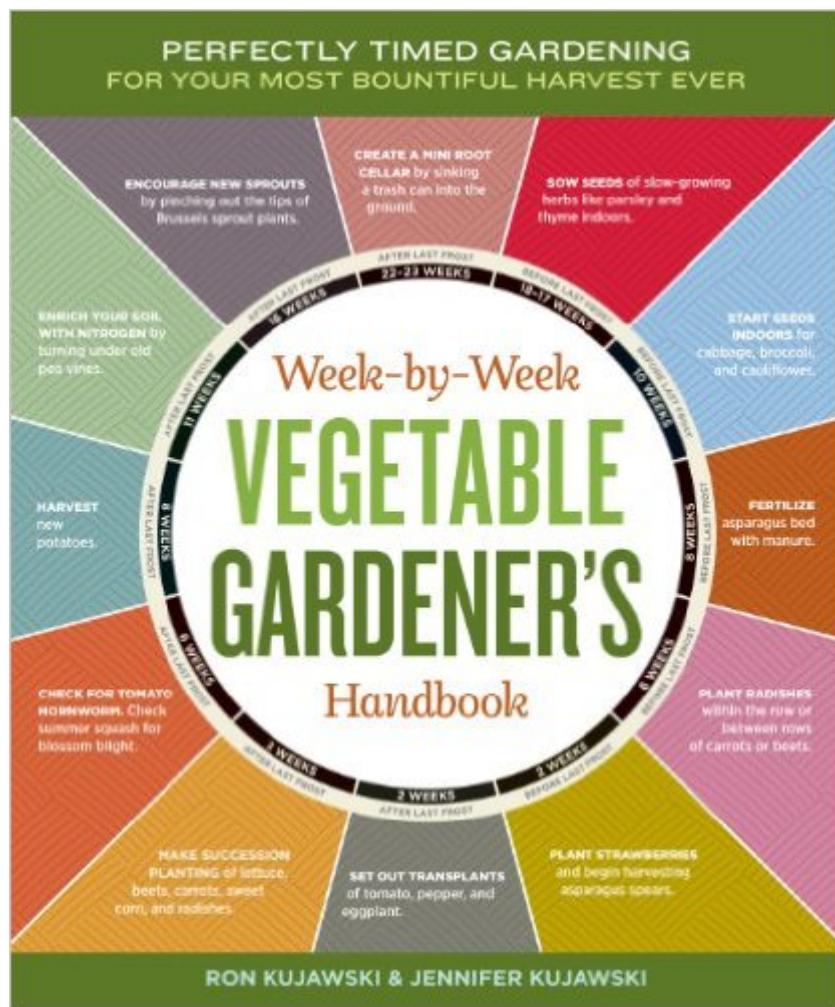


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The Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook: Make The Most Of Your Growing Season



Synopsis

Whether you're a seasoned gardener determined to increase crop yields or starting your very first vegetable garden, the Week-by-Week Gardener's Handbook will help you manage your schedule and prioritize what's important. Detailed weekly to-do lists break gardening down into simple and manageable tasks so that you always know what needs to be done and when to do it, from starting seeds and planting strawberries to checking for tomato hornworms and harvesting carrots. Enjoy a bountiful harvest with this organized and stress-free approach to gardening.

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Customer Reviews

I liked this book, I really did. I read through it and thought it sounded like a neat idea and that its checklists would help me keep on top of my garden chores week by week. So I happily filled in my frost date and dates thereafter on the weekly schedules in the book, then flipped to the page for the current date to check on my garden progress. That's when I realized that the dates had no bearing on reality at all. My average frost date is April 15. This book lists "Early fall" as 12-14 weeks after the average date of frost. That's in July. One of the hottest parts of my season. Huh? Fall doesn't even start until September. And this is where the book could be dangerous for beginners. It makes fertilizer recommendations based on dates that may be completely inappropriate for your area. If I had followed the instructions here, based on the weekly dates, I would have completely eradicated my harvest. Clearly it needed to switch from "after frost" to "before frost" midway through the schedule. The only saving grace is that the sections are marked as "early Summer" "mid Summer"

etc, so you could use it as a loose schedule, but not a specific weekly schedule. Maybe the book deserves slightly more than one star, because there is some good info, but I think any book that could totally destroy a new gardener's experience and lead them down the path of utter failure is undeserving of a high rating.

Great information, especially for newbie gardeners. But the system of weekly tasks set according to where the week is versus your local average last frost date doesn't work the later you go into the season. For instance, in my area, Maryland, the 18th Week After Average Last Frost is listed as a Late Fall week, and one of the things it has me do is "Empty and Clean window boxes, patio boxes, and other containers." Well my 18th week would be August 20th! That's Mid to Late Summer here! I'd be pulling out productive plants from my containers if I did what they wanted! However, the book seems great for earlier dates. I think what I'll have to do is adjust the later weekly chores according to my area's needs regardless of how long it actually is after my last average frost date. For instance, for the above 18th week chore, I may do that in Late September or October. Once I determine the correct date, I'll write THAT on the top of the "18th week" page. I think my having to adjust some of the task dates is worth it however, because the info, tasks, discussions, and instructions really are excellent. I'm happy I got this book. Now if the authors could only figure out how to fix this problem it would be a masterpiece. Perhaps by somehow incorporating the readers Average FIRST frost date as well, to help determine later season tasks?

A very affordable book for gardeners. I like the week by week format. I always start too late trying to grow seedlings missing out on some early crops. I made a bookmark with my area's frost dates and weekly dates corresponding to the book. I feel organized for the first time since I started veggie gardening. The book has reminders for maintenance such as when to start looking for certain insects and diseases like blight. It has timely information in each section! I bought extras for my dad and friends.

I love the idea of this book, namely that you can plug in your date of average last frost and work from there to create a detailed map of your gardening season. I really like that it's both a great source of information and a workbook that's intended for you to write in and personalize. The illustrations are detailed and very cool, and I find the writing style to be personal, easy to read, and augmented with just the right amount of humor. That being said, I am concerned that this one-size-fits-all approach to a gardening schedule is ultimately going to disappoint some people.

Looking at a few of the one-star reviews, I see that this is in fact the case. This book simply cannot be a viable companion for all gardeners from Phoenix to Fairbanks, which is the implication. There are just too many different climate variations in this country to be accounted for by such a book. However, THAT being said, I am actually strongly considering purchasing the book (yes, I always use my local library to preview books before buying!). Seeing that the authors garden in an area of the country (western Mass.) that has a very similar frost-free date to my own, I feel like this will be a great resource for me to have. I would say that this is a five-star book for those with an average last frost date of roughly late April, and all others should proceed with caution!

I was so excited to get Ron and Jennifer Kujawski's book, week-by-week vegetable gardener's handbook, and have never been so disappointed in a book. The concept is great but the cover and blurbs are deceptive. It suggests a book that can help you organize your gardening year by inserting your last frost date. Nowhere does it suggest that this book only applies to somewhere far north of where I live, and does nothing to help organize the fall and late summer planting here in Alabama. I started in right away, writing in my frost date, looking for when it would switch to dates that would be based on the first frost of the year. I was not reading closely, but finally I realized I had a lemon when it said that I should "harvest sprouts (brussels sprouts) after frost" on "19 weeks after average date of last frost", which is, in my area, August 8!!! Do you know anyone in the north who could use a very slightly used copy?

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