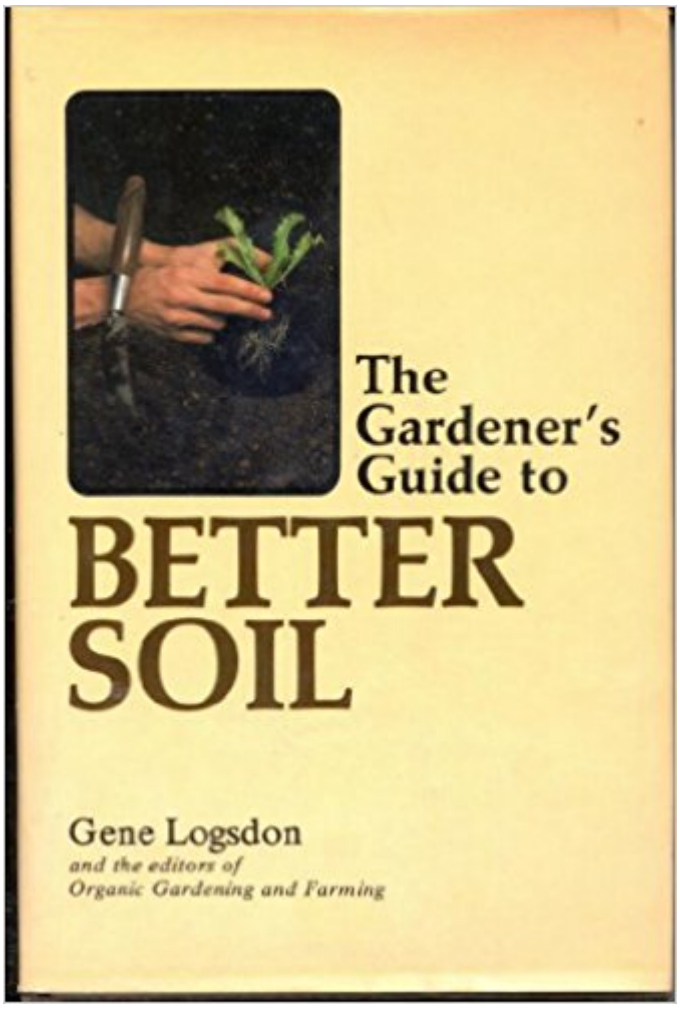
Gardener's Guide To Better Soil



Synopsis

Book by Gene Logsdon, The Editors of Organic Gardening n Farming

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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This is a great basic text. As it was written back int he 80s before permaculture and organic farming became the rich man’s hobby that is has become today, it is thoroughly practical. It is still the best treatment I have found on installing field tile on your own (instead of hiring a tiling operation). I feel that the book alone is worth the buck I paid for it for these few pages alone.It also goes over the basics of practical (in therms of time, money, and effort) organic soil building principles very well. It also gives a very nice geography of soils in North America that provides a great deal of insight into why certain pattens of cultivation developed in certain areas and not others; it helps one understand the ideal location for a farm if they don’t own one yet for the kind of growing they intend to do.Another thing. Gene Logsdon’s older books I find to have a wisdom and experience well beyond what one would expect. Unlike a lot of writers, especially since the 1990s, Gene didn’t have recourse to the latest equipment, the best soils, etc. because he was relatively poor when he wrote these books. I cannot begin to tell you the enormous disappointment I have come to in reading many modern permaculture books when the author has a picture of them riding on a 10-20K loader-tractor or mini-excavator when they are running farm of a couple acres. Such equipment will never pay its way on a small farm. Yea, a loader makes formal compost making a whole lot easier. But Gene understood way back in 1980 that it was more sensible to sheet compost. Basically apply

the computable material to the ground. No lifting and fighting gravity. A whole lot less time and effort and back pain. And where in nature do little neat compost piles form? The ordinary process is to apply material to the ground and let the worms till it in and the rain provide the water. No pumps, pipes, plastic, power (from fuel or electricity). In these pages (I've always suspected this) I learned that the idea of making compost for a garden the size that can produce worthwhile amounts of food is pretty insane. Just one inch deep of moist loam soil on one acre weights about 140 tons. Read that again. And then go and calculate it yourself if you don't believe me. That's all you need to know about the idea of spreading a one inch deep layer of compost (as recommend Jeavons, etc.) on a large garden (one that can actually grow food for a big family, or a small community) being completely insane. Likewise, anyone who has spread or shoveled manure will also understand this. Compost is great, it is certainly better than throwing compostable stuff in the garbage like most people do, but there is not anywhere near enough of it to be main source of a soil improvement program. Green manuring and sheet composting (mulching) is far, far more practical.Why not five starts? Because the treatment of the minor soil nutrients (besides N, P, K, and C) is inadequate and I think the overall decision of soil amendment and balancing is incomplete. Biological Farmer by Zimmer is will complete the understanding. But hey, can't go wrong for a dollar. I've learned more useful information in this book than more than a few $20-30 newer books.

Great Book. Only very slightly dated, but great information that will always be relevant.Logsdon is a great writer. His books, this one included, are always easy to read and packed with great information.It has way more information about soil types than most people would ever think about, but it is presented well, and the information is a basis for how and why to build and preserve the living soil that is necessary for our existence... that he explains..... it is great information for homeowners, farmers, and anyone wanting to have any plants growing.As I said, he is a great writer. I am not. His book is great. My description and review is pathetic and totally inadequate to describe his work.

An oldtime favorite, covering the basics as well as more in depth information too. It's a practical book that teaches what you need to know about garden soil and techniques you can use to improve the soil: how organic matter works, essential plant needs including micronutrients, soil acidity and alkalinity and how to cope with it, soil amendments, conditioners and natural fertilizers, the benefits of mulching, how to compost and use it, watering needs, cultivation etc.

All gardeners would benefit from taking a serious look at their soil. This book is old but as relevant today as yesterday.

What a joy to read and what a resource to have on the shelf. Come on Spring! Compost is ready!

I am enrolled in a soils calss at the local community college. it was one of the books recommended be the instructor. i want to try cover crops and this will help me determine a good crop for my zone.

I was lucky enough to find an old copy of this on the shelf of the used-bookstore for $2.48. Its worth ten times that at least. I considered myself an amateur gardener until I read just a few pages of Mr Logdson’s book. Now I am starting to realize how much I didn’t actually know before.The book is easy to read and Mr Logdson is a gifted writer, explaining details about soil, mulch, cover crops, compost, erosion, rotation and pretty much everything about soil and how to get good, organic, living, natural soil that will grow plants without any chemical fertilizers. He explains different methods for large farms or backyard vegetable gardens and has different recommendations for different temperature zones. The work is presented in organized chapters with numerous illustrations and a good index. The fact that it is 37 years old doesn’t seem to make any difference; this information is just as vital and true now as it was back then. It really should be printed again; I’m sure it would be a bestseller.The information here is helpful whether you’re starting a farm from scratch or just trying to get more production for your vegetable garden. I’ve got dozens of books on gardening but I feel like this is the one I will be referring to more than any other. I can’t recommend it enough.

If you’re seriously into gardening organically (the real organicgardening where you care for the soil rather than justdumping on organic fertilizer instead of chemicalfertilizer) - I recommend this book; I learned a lot. It coversdifferent types of soils and what to so with them, additivesand green manures, cultivation; it’s very readable. It’s a bitdated-looking but the information is sound. It spends moretime than I’d like suggesting how to identify good landbefore you buy it.

Start With the Soil: The Organic Gardener’s Guide to Improving Soil for Higher Yields, More Beautiful Flowers, and a Healthy, Easy-Care Garden Improving Your Soil: A Practical Guide to Soil Management for the Serious Home Gardener Methods of Soil Analysis. Part 2. Microbiological and Biochemical Properties (Soil Science Society of America Book, No 5) (Soil Science Society of America Book Series) Gardener’s Guide to Better Soil Taylor’s Weekend Gardening Guide to Soil

and Composting: The Complete Guide to Building Healthy, Fertile Soil (Taylor's Weekend Gardening Guides (Houghton Mifflin)) The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition Balancing Soil Nutrients and Acidity: The Real Dirt on Cultivating Crops, Compost, and a Healthier Home (The Ultimate Guide to Soil Book 3) Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Revised Edition Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, Revised Edition (Science for Gardeners) Teaming with Microbes: A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web The Ultimate Guide to Soil: The Real Dirt on Cultivating Crops, Compost, and a Healthier Home (Permaculture Gardener Book 3) The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Ranchers Are Tending the Soil to Reverse Global Warming The living soil;: Evidence of the importance to human health of soil vitality, with special reference to post-war planning, Soil Water and Agronomic Productivity (Advances in Soil Science) Dynamics of WheelÃ¢â ¬â œSoil Systems: A Soil Stress and Deformation-Based Approach (Ground Vehicle Engineering) The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Foodies Are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet Gardener's Guide to Tropical Plants: Cool Ways to Add Hot Colors, Bold Foliage, and Striking Textures (Gardener's Guides) Arizona Gardener's Guide (Gardener's Guides) Minnesota Gardener's Guide (Gardener's Guides) Illinois Gardener's Guide (Gardener's Guides)