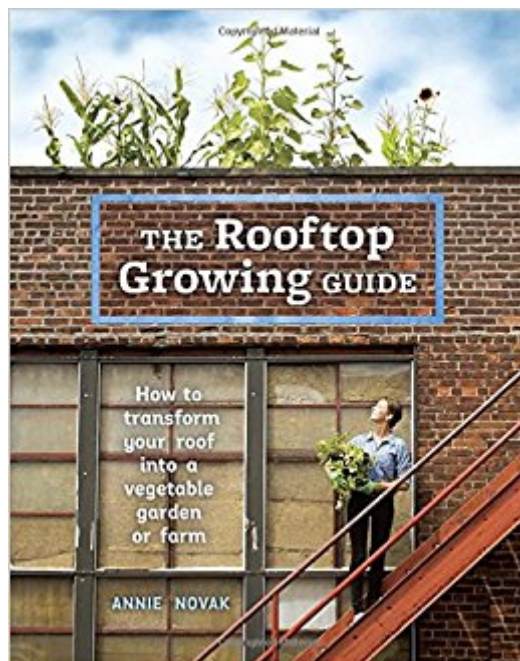




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# The Rooftop Growing Guide: How To Transform Your Roof Into A Vegetable Garden Or Farm



## Synopsis

If you'd like to grow your own food but don't think you have the space, look up! In urban and suburban areas across the country, farms and gardens are growing atop the rooftops of residential and commercial buildings. In this accessible guide, author Annie Novak's passion shines as she draws on her experience as a pioneering sky-high farmer to teach best practices for raising vegetables, herbs, flowers, and trees. The book also includes interviews, expert essays, and farm and garden profiles from across the country, so you'll find advice that works no matter where you live. Featuring the brass tacks on green roofs, container gardening, hydroponics, greenhouse growing, crop planning, pest management, harvesting tips, and more, *The Rooftop Growing Guide* will have you reimagining the possibilities of your own skyline.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As seen in the *New York Times*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Modern Farmer*, *Edible Brooklyn*, *Organic Life*, *City Lab-Atlantic Magazine*, and *Design\*Sponge* "Novak's prose is clear, warm and accessible. No space is wasted in her garden, and it's the same in her book, where every page is packed with information." Her book is also a terrific introduction to farming in *Any Yard*, *U.S.A.* "Novak's New York Times Book Review" "With *The Rooftop Growing Guide*, Annie Novak has given us a blueprint to reimagine thousands of underutilized acres in urban environments. In a book that reflects her own creativity, intellectual curiosity, and experience, she

provides both inspiration and detailed, practical guidance to create farms in the sky. — Will Allen, MacArthur fellow and author of *The Good Food Revolution* — Annie Novak explores every imaginable detail of how to turn any community's acres of unused rooftops into deliciously productive gardens. This book has already become an invaluable resource to our restaurant crew as we search for new ways to expand our rooftop production. — Rick Bayless, chef/owner of Frontera Grill, Topolobampo, and XOCO Chicago — "The Rooftop Growing Guide is filled with essential information about how to grow food on the alien plains of building tops. What makes it so much more than a how-to guide are the gorgeous photographs proving it can all be done, and the prose passages that make clear the wisdom and joyousness with which Novak embraces her work. — Joan Gussow, professor and author of *This Organic Life*

Annie Novak is the head farmer and cofounder of the nation's first commercial green roof vegetable farm, the Eagle Street Rooftop Farm atop Broadway Stages in Brooklyn. She is the manager of the Edible Academy at the New York Botanical Garden, and founder and director of Growing Chefs, a field-to-fork food education program. She lives in New York City. ---The Rooftop Growing Guide was photographed by Naima Green and Jackie Snow (unless otherwise noted) with Lucas Foglia; illustrations by Annie Novak and Lauren Heanes.

I have bought several rooftop gardening books this past year, but in my opinion, this is THE rooftop gardening/farming book to buy! It is full of accessible, quality information on just about anything you will need - The clear how-to guides cover everything from how to assess your sun exposure to building a worm bin to figuring out what nutrients your plants need. The author also includes interviews with other rooftop growers, including images from their spaces for tips and inspiration. I especially enjoy the general aesthetic of the book - it is full of information, but not too big to carry with you, the photographs and sketches are beautiful, the organization of the text makes it easy to read, and the margins are big enough to take your own notes as you use this book as your guide to start trying things out and making things grow!

When the Rooftop Growing Guide arrived and I started reading it I just couldn't put it down. With my passion for plants, soil and gardens I was literally spellbound and finished it in one reading. I was fascinated by the history of gardens on page 12 and 13. I loved the pictures as the photos are not only beautiful but assist one in being able to imagine designing and making their own "special"

rooftop garden. All the very detailed "how to advice" about how to successfully create a variety of rooftop gardens included is extremely helpful. I cherish the book and will share copies with my friends. I am very grateful to Annie Novak for writing and generously sharing her hard won knowledge (gained from actual experience and no doubt tons of hard work) on how to develop Rooftop Gardens with others around the world. The Rooftop Growing Guide opens up wonderful new horizons regarding how to grow both healthy food and create lovely green outdoor lawns and privacy spaces that include trees, shrubs and flowers on formerly unused rooftops. Miriam W.

This book caught my eye since I have been curious about growing my own vegetables and live in the city. I was glad that it was simple enough for me to get a grasp on where and how to set up my garden, but also could be used as a reference guide as my vegetables grow (includes tips on harvesting and organic fertilizers). It also much easier to read than other books I've read with many vibrant colors and great pictures of rooftop farms with city views in the background. Great buy!

Everything you need to know, and don't know you need to know, about roof & container gardening. It's easy to follow and very user friendly with lots of photos and illustrations.

LOVE it! Wow. This opened my eyes in many ways...I can confidently say I've reassessed my entire life after reading.

A fantastic book jam packed full of useful tips both for the person planning a rooftop farm of their own, as well as for any urban farmer wanting to maximize space and utilize smart organic tricks to improve yield and avoid plagues.

This book is ideal if you want to do some serious gardening and you are a city dweller. There is much info and advice on checking city codes, soils, containers and pest control. There are diagrams and easy to follow instructions to make a cold frame, wind screen, garden plans and more. I am in a rural area so I didn't need this book for rooftop gardening but I needed to learn about pest control, garden planning and planting, maintaining healthy soil and the scoop on containers. There is an entire section on garden containers and the pros and cons for each sort. Metal is durable, plastic milk crates work if you line them, recycled materials can be used too - think garden boots, buckets and miscellaneous items you don't need anymore. There is also an interesting bit about vertical gardening in containers. Let it grow upwards and save some room. Also

of interest is how to raise chickens and rabbits on the rooftop. I would have never thought of that. The part about bee hives is very interesting. something I don't think I have the temperament for. plus I am scared to be stung. You certainly need pollinators if you are growing flowering vegetables, fruits or trees. Great book with lots of photos and illustrations. This isn't necessarily for the beginning gardener but all is explained in ways you can absorb easily.\*I received this book from Blogging for Books program. All opinions and thoughts are mine, nice and otherwise :-)

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