



Book Review Margaret Hodgson

Small Space Gardening for Canada by Laura Peters, Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Alberta, 2012. ISBN 978-1-55105-860-3
1. Urban gardening 2. Small gardens
176 pages. 196 colour photos,
1 Hardiness zone map, 1 annual frost free days map, Appendix of Companion plants, notes about author.
Softcover, \$24.95

The notes in ***Small Space Gardening for Canada*** about the author, Laura Peters, indicate that she is a Master Gardener with over 30 gardening books to her credit. These books cover a large range such as Organic Gardening, Container Gardening, Vegetable Gardening, Tips for Gardeners, Annuals for the Gardens and many other gardening topics. Living in Edmonton, she understands the limitations and parameters of the Canadian growing season. She has been writing and practicing her gardening applications for more than 25 years.

As cities continue to expand and more, emphasis is placed upon the need to increase the density, greater pressure is placed upon the green space surrounding the city. At the same time, in Canada, the population continues to age and there is the continual movement to downsize from larger homes to townhouses, apartments and condominiums. That does not mean that the dwellers lose that desire to be growing their own flowers, vegetables and fruit where possible. There has been a definite movement on the west coast towards guerilla gardening and community gardens supported by city councils. This book offers practical advice to those living in apartments or homes with small gardening spaces on ways to maximize the space at hand and how to go about the task.

The book is well organized with a brief introduction, followed by three main sections to the book - 1. Optimizing Your Garden Space 2. Planting and Maintaining Your Garden Space 3. The Plants

In section 1, Optimizing your garden space covers many interesting ideas for balcony containers, hanging and upside-down gardens (that will make you want to read this book), collapsible containers, requirements of light, problems of pollutions, space, weight, container materials, self-watering containers, the pros and cons of raised beds and much more.

In section 2 - Maintenance- the author covers in a very organized fashion all the tools required for the garden, the requirements of container gardening maintenance, overwintering requirements, problems of pests and diseases in a container garden and much useful information of composting, including anaerobic composting and vermicomposting

In section 3, The Plants the reader finds great descriptions of fruits and vegetables, annuals which can be grown in small spaces. Much good practical advice here plus lists of vegetables fruits, flowers which will grow in partial shade if this is what your space dictates.

Small Space Gardening for Canada is a particularly useful book for those who are living with confined gardening spaces or even for those who would like some new ideas for container gardening for patios. You will enjoy reading it.