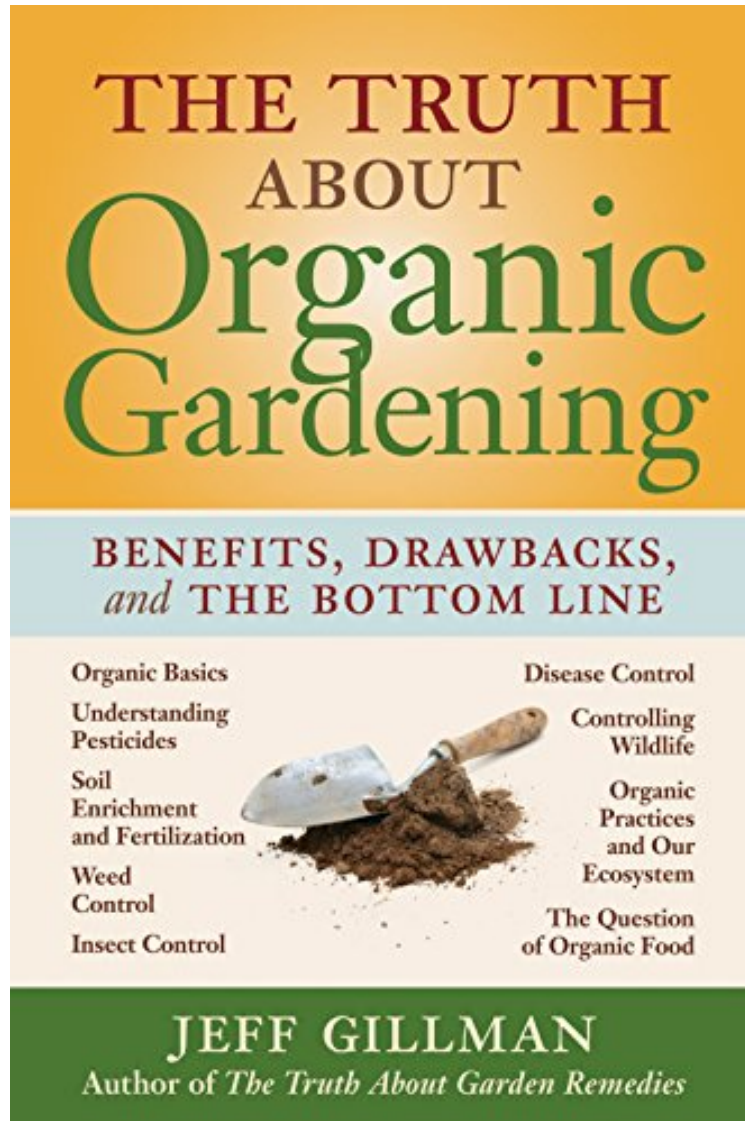


The Truth About Organic Gardening: Benefits, Drawbacks, and the Bottom Line

Jeff Gillman

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Jeff Gillman : The Truth About Organic Gardening: Benefits, Drawbacks, and the Bottom Line before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Truth About Organic Gardening: Benefits, Drawbacks, and the Bottom Line:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Just what every true gardener needs! By Dr. John T. Webb The title of this book says it all, and IT REALLY DOES WHAT IT SAYS!! Along with its two companion texts by this author,

this book is the best reference for genuine organic gardening. I heartily recommend it (and its companions) to each and every gardener who wants a garden that is both productive and environmentally responsible. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great, fun book By J. Barker I enjoyed reading this book. It is well organized and presented. Lots of good information in here, some of which you may know and some of which may be a surprise. I have been in the landscaping business for over 20 years and found some useful information in this book. It is a quick, enjoyable read. It is also very easy to skim through the sections you already know or don't care about. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Book in Need of a Different Title By A. Witten After reading his other book of a similar style (The Truth About Garden Remedies), I looked to this one to provide a comparable, approachable take on the science underlying organic gardening. It's there but it's not packaged in the way that he (or the publisher) claims it to be. Those looking for more research-based analysis and synthesis will be underwhelmed. In this book Gillman has two aims 1) to explain that "organic" doesn't always mean safe, or environmentally friendly, and 2) to argue that the use of specific practices can reduce if not eliminate the need for pesticides of any form, whether organic or not. Given that these are the aims of the book, and Gillman specifically hopes to provide a calm voice within the many debates and biases regarding them, I think there's a disconnect between the title, the contents, and the intended reader. As a result, when I finished the book, I didn't feel like I had a conclusive take on much at all. But I was rather certain that organic gardening wasn't the topic Gillman really wanted to be writing about. In the end this book is an enjoyable read. For those starting out, debating changing their approach, or looking for an introduction re: organic vs. conventional gardening, it's worth giving it a go.

Gardeners tend to assume that any organic product is automatically safe for humans and beneficial to the environment and in most cases this is true. The problem, as Jeff Gillman points out in this fascinating, well-researched book, is that it is not always true, and the exceptions to the rule can pose a significant threat to human health. To cite just one example, animal manures in compost can be a source of harmful E. coli contamination if improperly treated. Gillman's contention is that all gardening products and practices organic and synthetic need to be examined on a case-by-case basis to determine both whether they are safe and whether they accomplish the task for which they are intended. Ultimately, Gillman concludes, organic methods are preferable in most situations that gardeners are likely to encounter. After reading this eye-opening book, you will understand why, and why knowledge is the gardener's most important tool.

Trying to find definitive, impartial advice is hard. . . . How do you separate the hype from the facts? Spending 13 bucks on Gillman's new book. . . may go a long way. Washington Post To be the best gardener, tend your soil, plant a diverse garden, tolerate some imperfection and make informed case-by-case choices to deal with problems. [This] book can help. Chicago Tribune You'd have to be a professional horticulturalist yourself not to learn something from Gillman's wide-ranging descriptions of the more arcane chemical and mechanical garden methodologies that are out there. . . . He shares his knowledge and experience in a way that entertains, enlightens, and sometimes surprises. Garden Rant I've come away from this book a reference text masquerading as a beach read with hands-on knowledge that is just plain useful. The book gives you the facts about synthetic and organic techniques and encourages you to do further research, then make educated decisions about your own garden. . . . He is calm and even in his approach. His bottom line is that we all need to be more mindful about how we garden, and he encourages us to work towards a safer, healthier, and better world. Horticulture Gillman is a brainy University of Minnesota horticulturalist who is applying both science and common sense to the battle between organic and chemicals. It turns out there are things found in nature that aren't all that good for your backyard zinnias, or the planet, and that some man-made stuff actually serves both masters. Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine Refreshing, lucid, and enlightening. Their spare style, with no illustrations, and concentration of facts rather than inspiration even gives them an old-fashioned charm. BBC Gardens Finally, someone wrote a clear and concise book about gardening practices and products. Chicago Sun-Times A highly readable, intelligent, and scientifically based discussion on the benefits and, yes, drawbacks of organic gardening. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette If you're a gardener, run, don't walk, to your nearest laptop or bookstore to buy [this book]. If you think you already know this stuff, trust me. You don't. . . . It's a tough, confusing world out there for gardeners. Best to bypass the gurus. Read this book. Philadelphia Inquirer Destined to be a bestseller. . . . An easy to read, practical, and fascinating book for veteran gardeners or someone who just moved from an apartment to their first home with two feet or 2,000 feet of gardening space. Cleveland Plain Dealer Sure to cause controversy and heated discussion. . . . What this book does is introduce more than 100 products and planting techniques and cite the latest university tests and factual results so that gardeners can make responsible choices and not continue to link the words organic, safe and effective so firmly in their minds. Seattle Post-Intelligencer