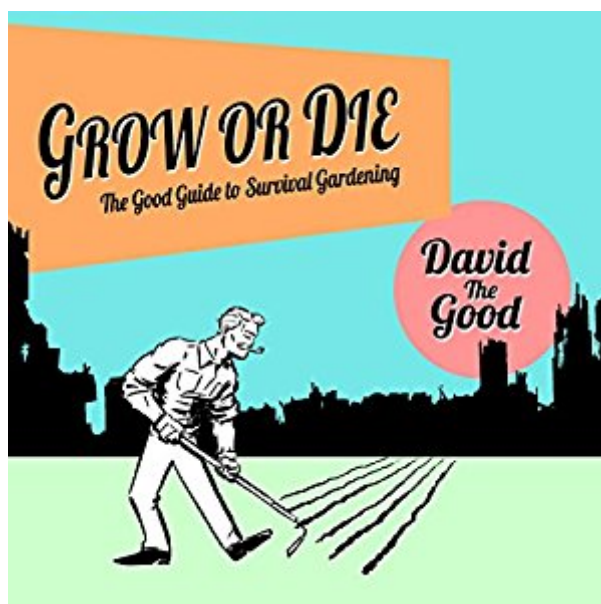


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# Grow Or Die: The Good Guide To Survival Gardening



## Synopsis

What if everything collapsed tomorrow? What if the shelves on the supermarket were empty? What if you couldn't get gas for your tiller? What if you didn't stockpile fertilizer...or water? What if you've never even planted a garden in your life...and your life depended on growing your own food? Don't panic! *Grow or Die: The Good Guide to Survival Gardening* has the answers. From hand tools that will till the ground better than a tractor, to plans for growing all the calories you need in a crisis, to easy-to-follow crop rotations that will beat the pests, this book is the cheapest insurance you can own against the crash we all know is coming sooner or later. You'll discover how to scrounge for seeds in unlikely places, how to till without a tiller, how to preserve your harvest, how to beat pests without poison, how to convert a lawn into a food factory, and how to garden to survive in emergencies and crises. Expert gardener David the Good, author of the best-selling *Compost Everything: The Good Guide to Extreme Composting*, has written the gardening book that could one day save your life. Easy to follow and entertaining, *Grow or Die* doesn't bog down in the technical details, but focuses on how you can turn your garden into a tool for survival. It's perfect for those interested in preparedness, low-tech gardening, and living with a lighter, more ecologically sustaining footprint.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Once again, David the Good has inflicted upon the world yet another of his maniacal screeds. Will he ever stop? I hope not. I've had an interest in gardening my whole life (thanks to my mother and

my grandfather.) But I've only recently really gotten into it after a few false starts, and David's books have helped me already. This one will be no different...Winter is Coming. The book itself is exactly what it purports to be. It's a basic guide to gardening, enough to get you growing in the event of The End Of The World As We Know It. Hopefully, you'll read it and get started before then. The book contains helpful chapters on what to grow, how to grow it, where to find what to grow, and a bit here and there on what to do with what you've grown. It contains a lot of useful information about fertilizers and composting, and his other book, Compost Everything, (which I dubbed "The Necronomicon of Composting") is an excellent companion-guide. While it is geared towards the survivalist/prepper types, I'd be comfortable giving this book to anyone who had an interest in gardening but no knowledge of the subject. It really is a good book to get people started. Christmas / Hannukah / Favored Winter Holiday is coming up; it's an excellent gift idea. As usual, it is written in his witty, entertaining, conversational style, which for many people can be more intuitive and educational than a dry textbook. As this is the Kindle edition, I'll gladly buy a dead-tree as soon as it is available. My only complaint is that he did not include a science fiction story within the book so it could be nominated for a Hugo.

A well written and engaging book on how to garden for survival with the minimum of time and equipment. I'd dock half a star for not mentioning the nutritious and hardy parsnip, but will add that half star back because he refuses to deal with zucchini (if only my neighbors would do the same).

I wish I could write fiction as entertaining as this informative book. I loved the small format because it's convenient to stash and read anywhere. It won't take long to "devour" this inspiring volume, though, and I only wish I'd gotten Mr. Good's companion book on composting at the same time. The most surprising concept I took away is the importance of Crop Rotation, even for a home-gardener. I'd presumed it was only for commercial farming, but the idea of "tricking" the insects (by keeping them on their 6-sets of toes?) makes sense now that the author lays it out. He also has me keen on trying grain corn that I'll then be able to turn into homemade grits (my husband's favorite breakfast side). The author even includes what I'd consider the most amazing and useful plant in the world (pp. 132-134): Moringa. It is truly a "miracle tree" which I had first read about a couple of years ago in researching natural water-filtration. I had no idea it could be grown in the southern states as a crop! To close, I'm still a little annoyed that Mr. Good seems to have a grudge against a vegetable that, perhaps, should-not-be-named (zucchinini)? Maybe because Z's are recalcitrant, too low-cal, or that they take poorly to storage? Who knows. ;-). Regardless, the book is the inspiration I've been

needing to give up on the "perfect" container-garden and get back to the good ol' ground that I've got kind of garden.

If you can only have one survival gardening book, get Steve Solomon's *Gardening when it counts*. That said, this is a decent book. Strengths: it's not doctrinaire about gardening methods, but describes the merits and weaknesses of each. It emphasizes that the successful survival gardener is a gardener NOW. Emphasis on ease of growing and calories/nutrients produced. It deals with the Deep South/tropical plants that most gardening books miss. Weaknesses: style tends to be self-consciously cute. Nothing much on seed saving or harvest preservation. Still worth having.

This book gets straight to the point; it's the best quick and dirty guide to emergency farming I've ever read. Provides an essential skillset in the event our increasingly volatile world meets our increasingly fragile supply chains.

After finishing this book, I felt inspired to go out and grow anything and everything I could. The daylight and the reality of living in an apartment squashed this compulsion, for now, but I'll pick it back up when I no longer have these constraints. There's a bit of it that's not applicable to those north of the climate of Florida but the rest seems to be good information for anyone wanting to learn how to grow food as a hobby or more. I did have one gripe with the author. If you have cornmeal and a little fat to fry it in, can you really say that okra is inedible?

For a non garden person, this book has given me the courage to plant a few items this summer and just see if I have even a tiny gardener's thumb. Having been known as the Queen of Rubber Plants but little else, I half way think I might make it as a relative productive food grower! We even seem to have the same tastes in veggies. Told with humor and lots of information.

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