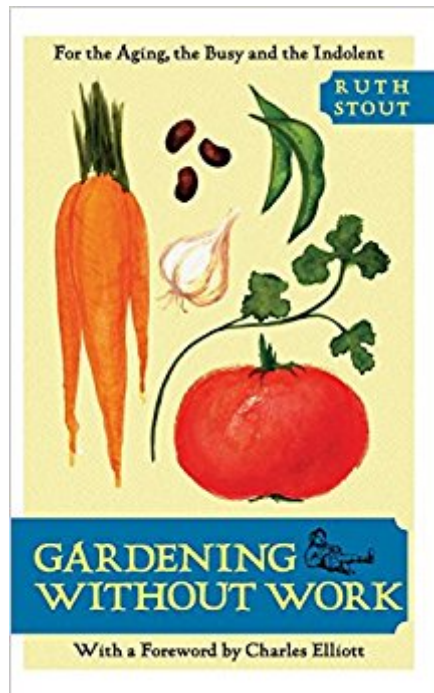




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# Gardening Without Work: For The Aging, The Busy, And The Indolent



## Synopsis

While everyone loves eating fresh garden produce, not everyone has the time and energy to create a productive garden. But what if growing delicious crops required hardly any effort? What if you could have succulent strawberries, perfect peas, and terrific tomatoes without needing to touch a spade, hoe, or plow&#8212;without needing to worry about irrigating, spraying, sowing a cover crop, weeding, cultivating, or building a compost pile? If that sounds good, the Stout System is the answer for you! Ruth Stout has shown tens of thousands of gardeners how to greatly reduce their gardening workload. Let Ruth (and within a few chapters, she will feel like a friend!) show you how you can rejuvenate the soil and make your fruits, vegetables, and flowers thrive with low-maintenance mulch gardening. Widely renowned as a gardening expert (and sister of the famed mystery writer Rex Stout), Ruth Stout wrote extensively about how to simplify gardening. Her techniques have brought people from all over the world to her garden, and now her advice can help you maximize your garden's output with minimal effort. In addition to the time-saving tips provided, Stout's joyous perspective on life and gardening makes this book a delight&#8212;and is a must-read for anyone growing food or flowers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gardening that requires only planting and picking seems almost sacrilegious, but with Ruth Stout's garden methods, weeds and bugs are no more than fading memories. In a neighborly, conversational tone that makes this how-to book on gardening a lot of fun, Stout gives advice on

growing various vegetables and flowers, finding the best catalogues and nurseries, avoiding chemicals on plants, and--best of all--year-round mulching, which is Stout's pièce de résistance that keeps the unwanted elements out of your greened acres. If you've ever wanted your own asparagus bed, but thought it was too exotic a plant to grow on your own, *Gardening Without Work* is a great place to dig in. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

With this delightful book, you can garden with hardly any labor except planting and picking. The Stout System of mulch gardening will allow you to throw away your weeding tools, pesticides, and fertilizers, and will conserve and replenish the soil to make plants thrive. (6 X 9, 226 pages, illustrations) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I've seen some of the Ruth Stout videos on YouTube and I ADORE her (R.I.P. Ruth). The writing style is very much like her videos would suggest, you can hear her voice in every word. However, on the practical side, the primary thing you will learn from the book is PUT STRAW OR HAY MULCH ON EVERYTHING IN YOUR GARDEN AND YOU WILL HAVE VERY LITTLE WORK TO DO WHILE ENRICHING YOUR SOIL. There, I just saved you some money. It's still rather sweet, I'm just not sure that beyond the primary tip I just revealed, you'll gain much else here that you can't gain from any other source on gardening. Ruth still rocks though!

I noticed a mention of Earl Stanley Gardner in Ruth Stout's book, probably a sly dig at her brother, Rex Stout, whose Nero Wolfe mysteries I adore. Too bad these folks are gone, I would love to write them each a fan letter. To her book -- yes, it's premise is simple, but we folk who were raised on the complexities and mysteries of gardening JUST CAN'T BELIEVE it's that easy. I've started and my only problem is getting enough straw. When I get some down, it looks so pretty! I think if I put down hay, the deer and rabbits would assume it was for them. I'll report back next spring, meanwhile, enjoy the book over the winter!

This book is utterly charming as well as presenting an innovative way of gardening. We've had the best garden ever this year, in part because of ample rain, so I was looking for information to nudge along our success. After trying just a few of her methods, we're looking forward to extending our vegetable garden into the fall. Ruth Stout had gardened for 50 years when she wrote this book and readily admits the failures that are sometimes inevitable. However years of experience with her methods have resulted in usually great crops in her huge vegetable garden and from very little work.

Sounds impossible, but no tilling, no plowing, no weeding, no fertilizers or "-cides", and it all makes a lot of sense when you read the book. Her methods also work for flower gardeners. She was a delightful old lady and I cannot wait to read her other books.

Ruth Stout, in her own quiet way, caused a gardening revolution. Her mulch method is now time honored and many books have been published parroting her mulching ideas. Many are good books but I love her honesty and open style. She never claimed to be an expert but was always open to new ideas and shares her failures as openly as her successes. Great read!

I love the way Ruth Stout writes. The. Ok has helped me greatly. I have gone to a complete mulch garden. Also watch the Back to Eden video if you are really interested.

This book has a lot of answers for my high prairie failing gardens. Our soil needs a lot of help. What isn't nailed down blows over to ND. This is a reasonable approach with putting layers down rather than trying to dig amendments into the soil and losing them to the constant northwesterly winds. I am seeking what will work best and finding old hay around here is no problem. Very enjoyable book.

Anyone who enjoys gardening will love LOVE this book. Ruth Stout's books are pure joy. You will also need to read How to Have a Green Thumb Without An Aching Back. She is clever, amusing, and very very easy to read ---- and full of original, brilliant ideas. Do yourself a favor and get this book.

A charming little book about the joys of easy gardening. I just wish she was still alive so we could visit her garden.

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