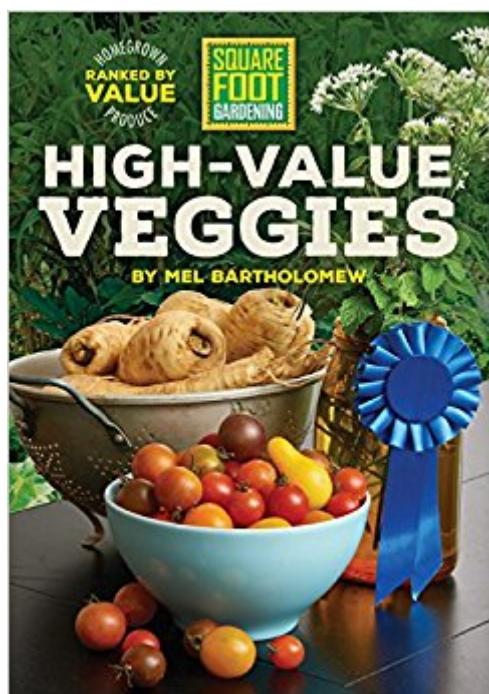


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# Square Foot Gardening High-Value Veggies: Homegrown Produce Ranked By Value (All New Square Foot Gardening)



## Synopsis

Get the most return on investment from your garden by calculating which vegetables, fruits, and herbs give the highest payback. To make the selection process of what to grow easy, Mel Bartholomew -- author of the best-selling Square Foot Gardening -- has a new book to maximize your garden's return on investment. *High-Value Veggies* is an easy-to-use reference book that will help you choose edibles that make the most financial and spatial sense for your space. Explore the thought processes and math behind growing vegetables and herbs in order to craft the best plan for you. Maximizing your garden's yield is no simple task. Consider the tomato; most people think it's a safe bet for a high-yield return - but which variety? Heirloom tomatoes typically cost \$5 or more a pound at farmers' markets. You can beat that price by growing Cherokee Purples from seed at a net cost of only 80 cents per pound. If you plant purchased seedlings, the cost will go up to about \$1 a pound -- and that's including the cost of water and fertilizer. This is the kind of invaluable data and advice you can trust *High-Value Veggies* to provide. Whether you're interested in growing tomatoes, pumpkins, cabbage, corn, or anything else, it's wise to consider the invisible dollar signs sown along the way. The relative return on investment for each veggie in *High-Value Veggies* is calculated based on dollar value generated for each square foot planted. You don't need to be a math whiz to plan your next vegetable garden. Bartholomew has done the math for you, and he has cost-effective answers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mel Bartholomew was the founder and inventor of Square Foot Gardening and the author of All New Square Foot Gardening, the best-selling gardening book in America for a generation. The book has sold 2.5 million copies since Bartholomew wrote the first book in 1981. He hosted a PBS TV show for five years, and then was telecast for three more years on the Learning Channel and Discovery Network. Bartholomew presided over the nonprofit Square Foot Gardening Foundation, which encourages every household around the world to have a small garden and eat fresh, healthy vegetables that are uncontaminated. He passed away in May, 2016. [www.squarefootgardening.com](http://www.squarefootgardening.com)

I like the premise of this book, but in the end, I'm not sure an actual book was necessary to get the point across. We are in the process of planting square foot gardens this spring and love Mel's original book. We've even watched episodes of his PBS show on YouTube. I was a little disappointed in the cost comparisons because I didn't think they really took into account organic, which most people's home gardens will end up being. I think it's incredibly valuable to consider what the cost is of buying a vegetable or fruit versus cost of growing it, but I didn't really feel like the entire cost was considered. There's the initial cost of seeds or plants that is considered, but there's also the cost of water and the opportunity cost of the space you're planting that I didn't feel was well explored in the calculations. By opportunity cost, I mean that if you plant a watermelon in a spot, it takes the entire season for it to grow so you can harvest, but if you plant radishes in the spring, you could turn around and harvest them 30-45 days later and plant summer squash in the same spot for an autumn harvest. There's a cost to losing the spot to a watermelon all summer when you could be putting radishes and zucchini on your dinner table most of that same season from the same plot of land. Maybe I'm overthinking the complexity of the formula, but I do believe Mel has hit the nail on the head as far as ROI of gardening. If you can pick up organic kale from a local store or farmer's market for \$1/bunch all summer long, growing your own doesn't have the same value as putting in a heritage tomato plant that produces \$1.99/pound tomatoes for a couple months. Gardening is a smart choice, and gardening smart is a super smart choice.

Mel does it again! I'm a master gardener and certified square foot gardening instructor. I teach organic vegetable gardening classes for our local extension. There are many thinks that people can value when gardening, but a big one with organic vegetables is \$\$\$\$\$! Return on Investment is a big driver for many people; if you only have so much room to grow organic food, it makes sense to grow the organic products that will cost you the most at the store; that is what will save you the most

money. If you fill your garden with organic crops that you can buy at the store for pennies, and have no room left for the crops that will cost you dollars, then you're losing money. Mel gives you tools to conduct an analysis, but he's also done the work for you; the book contains lists of the least and most cost effective crops to grow, and includes many, many other lists of crops to grow if you value something other than money; nutrition, a fun child's garden, etc. Great book, great ideas!

Great book to help decide what veggies YOU want to plant to get the best value.

I used this book as a guide for starting my raised bed square foot garden and I have had amazing success! Lots of veggies being harvested without having to dedicate a lot of time weeding, watering etc. This is a must read for starting square foot gardening!

Mel left us far too soon. This last book illustrates his wonderful engineering mind's ability to organize and present relevant facts about the relative value of homegrown vegetables. His kindness and generosity is evident in all his endeavors.

Pretty useful information. I wish he would have included berries and fruits too. Still, a useful way to expand my thinking about the garden.

Great Book

Great Book! Arrived in great condition!

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