



## High-Value Veggies: A garden investment guide to edibles that give the most bang for the buck

*Mel Bartholomew*

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**Calculate the return on investment for your vegetable garden and get the most bang for your gardening bucks!**

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 ROI. *High-Value Veggies* is an easy-to-use reference book helping gardeners choose edibles that make the most financial and spatial sense. Explore the thought processes and math behind growing vegetables and herbs in order to craft the best plan for your produce.

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. *High-Value Veggies* makes this cost evaluation for each vegetable easy.

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 ROI 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.

## High-Value Veggies: A garden investment guide to edibles that give the most bang for the buck Details

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## **From Reader Review High-Value Veggies: A garden investment guide to edibles that give the most bang for the buck for online ebook**

### **Sierra says**

Good info but I had a lot of it already. Interesting & important topic

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### **James says**

A fun, lightweight gardening book on selecting what to grow in your garden, mostly based on saving money (herbs win!) but other odd lists includes best kid's gardens, etc.

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### **thefourthvine says**

Okay, so, I read this because it was available in Overdrive through my local library, and -- this isn't a book. It's an overgrown blog post. The concept here is that you get a list of the stuff you can grow in your garden (not just vegetables) that has the highest return on investment. The first chapter is how they calculated ROI for home-grown vegetables, the second chapter is their top ten and bottom ten list, and the third chapter is quick and mostly useless summaries about how to grow the stuff on their lists, plus some other stuff not on their lists.

Honestly, this is pretty pointless. If you're actually growing to sell, you're going to grow based on your local market, not per-square-foot ROI calculations. (And you're also a farmer, not a gardener, but whatever.) If you're growing to save money, you'll grow what \*you\* spend the most on -- the stuff your family eats, the stuff that costs the most in your area. Also, a lot of these plants can't be planted in all areas or at all times, so even if you do plant out your garden based on this book, you'll need another book to help you do it.

The one piece of advice that is useful here is basically the thing they say in every single intro to gardening book ever: start with herbs. They're easy to grow, they're very useful to have continually available, and you save a lot of money and/or add a lot of flavor to your food. Beyond that, it's hard to imagine what use this book could possibly be.

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### **Yvonne says**

Even if you are just a small suburban or urban gardener, not looking to sell your veggies, it is good to know which ones are worth even bothering to grow. And after last years potato failure, and now knowing that potatoes have one of the WORST returns, we won't be doing that ever again!

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### **Sheryl Normandeau says**

The concept behind High-Value Veggies is that many of us tend to grow vegetables in our gardens that are already mass-produced and inexpensively-purchased at the grocery stores or local markets. His suggestion is that we abandon the idea of growing those "low-value" crops and instead focus on the ones that are really pricey to buy. He proceeds to break it all down by inputs (tools and equipment, amendments, irrigation) as well as the cost of land and labour and then stacks them up against the potential return on investment (U.S. stats). All of this yields a top ten list of plant selections that Bartholomew profiles in more detail. There are definitely some edible plants that make more economical sense to grow than others!

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### **Sheryl says**

I'm so happy I won this book! I got it opened up it last night and read it in one setting. I loved it, it's very informative and the photography was fantastic. I loved the way he broke the gardens down. I've spent more money trying to grow heirloom tomatoes than if I had gone to the farmer's market and bought a bushel full! It's a short easy to read book that's chocked full useful information. I've never had raised garden, but the information will help me with my big ole garden that I have. This is a great reference book.

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### **Megan says**

A slim, interesting volume. I think the best part was the "Other Kinds of Value" lists in the back, with things like "Top Ten Best Edible Flowers" or "Top Ten Best Edibles for Shady Gardens." The national averages were neat, but as the book points out -- if you actually want to know what is/isn't profitable for you to grow in your area, you'll have to do the math. There were plenty of veggies where I was shocked at how high the average price was -- and plenty where I was shocked by how low it is.

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