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## **Better Vegetable Gardens the Chinese Way: Peter Chan's Raised-Bed System (A Garden Way publishing book)**

*Peter Chan*

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**Peter Chan : Better Vegetable Gardens the Chinese Way: Peter Chan's Raised-Bed System (A Garden Way publishing book)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Better Vegetable Gardens the Chinese Way: Peter Chan's Raised-Bed System (A Garden Way publishing book):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I was fascinated how they made such excellent use of their small backyardBy Gail SylverPeter Chan explains how he and his wife created a vegetable garden in their small backyard. They found that the yard was mostly rocks and stones. They dug out all the stones and rocks and used them in permanent garden pathways. The garden beds are only 3-4' wide and the pathways are 1-2' wide. He writes about interplanting vegetables, once one vegetable is used up, they amend the soil and immediately plant a new crop in its place. I was fascinated how they made such excellent use of their small backyard.I first read this gardening book as a library book in 1996. It inspired me to create a garden in my yard, which at the time, was mostly stones with a little bit of sand and soil. I was very successful. Nineteen years later, I am once again faced with a yard that has no garden., It does have a lawn, and I had thought that there must be some soil beneath that lawn. However, the lawn has about 1" of soil, and beneath that it is rocks and stones! I bought this book to re-read, and become re-inspired to create a vegetable garden in this place. Even though the photos are dated, the book still has valuable information. I find myself wondering what has become of the Chans, and if they are still gardening in that yard.2 of 2 people found the following

review helpful. too bad it's out of print  
By Barbara Bickmore  
This is old but one of the most delightful gardening books ever printed. It is down to earth and practical, with pictures to demonstrate.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
AWESOME Home Gardening Manual  
By K. Floyd  
This must be my ALLL TIME favorite gardening book. Direct and clear instructions on serious home garden making and maintenance with gorgeous images.

Chan's Basic Message:- Single dig beds 4'x25', easy to reach across and walk around, plant roots will do the double digging- Fertilize planting holes, then use a fertilizer tea throughout season for better harvests- Fertilize with mushroom compost, chicken manure, and a mix of superphosphate, muriate of potash, or ammonium sulfate, depending on the crop- Water in the morning, sometimes in the afternoon if necessary, never in the evening (overhead irrigation, drip not mentioned)- Practice companion planting and crop rotation for best yields and insect/disease resistance- Keep your compost pile aerated by building it around a hollow tube (steel pipe or bamboo that has had the internal walls punched out) and rock the tube back and forth from time to time to keep the center aerated. Don't waste time and effort turning your compost.