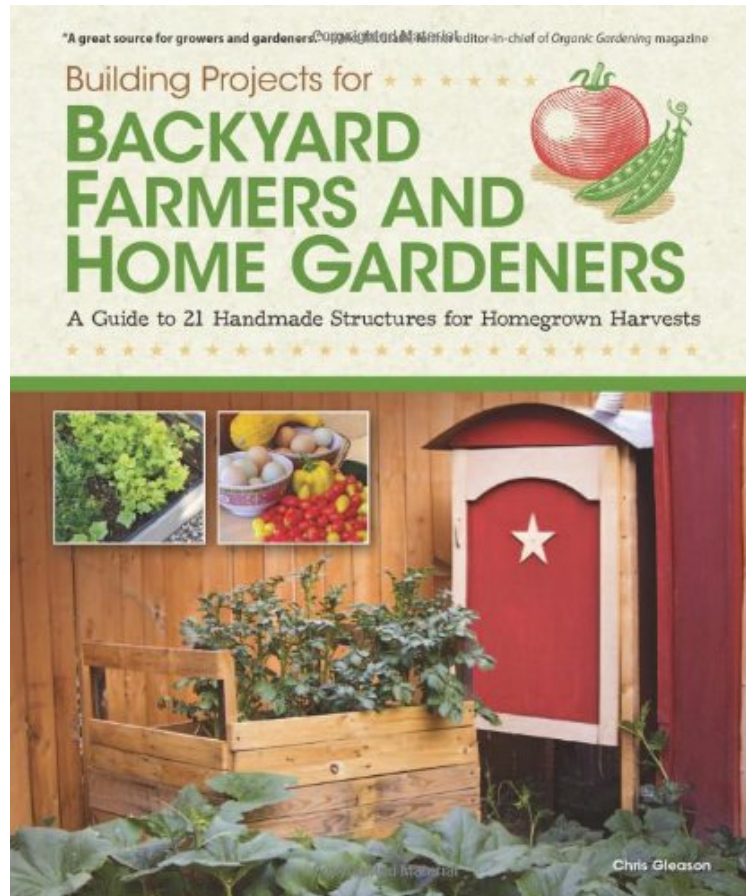


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Building Projects for Backyard Farmers and Home Gardeners: A Guide to 21 Handmade Structures for Homegrown Harvests

Chris Gleason

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Chris Gleason : Building Projects for Backyard Farmers and Home Gardeners: A Guide to 21 Handmade Structures for Homegrown Harvests before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Building Projects for Backyard Farmers and Home Gardeners: A Guide to 21 Handmade Structures for Homegrown Harvests:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Such a great book By lilnic I ordered several back yard/sustainable books and this was my favorite. The plans are very clean, I love the material lists and the items listed to build are so practical! Some of these types of books are very fantasy, fun to feed your imagination and your desire to live on the back 40. You know the ones, in 60 pages they cover growing gardens, fruit treats, spinning wool, killing chickens, milking goats, building a sod or cabin house and putting in a well, and canning foods. You can't do justice to raising and butchering cattle in 1 page, but it's fun to get the juices flowing. This ISN'T that book! I love the squash ramp

(genius), green house instructions (yep, I'm going to do it!!!), bee houses, raised garden beds, trellises, hoop building, chicken coops, rabbit hutches, garden carts, hoop buildings, and cold frames. This is the DOERS book and for people who need simple but very practical plans with clear instructions (aka I can use a drill and a staple gun and hammer, that's about it). This is a must add to your collection. If you are a seasoned builder/carpenter, you don't need this book unless you know nothing about bees, gardens, etc. You are likely talented enough to come up with your own plans. But for people like me who need instructions and practicality, I Love it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By reimeros some interesting/cute ideas from easy to better be a wood worker! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Building Projects for gardens By Sparrow This is a great book, lots of good ideas and how-to pages. Can't wait until spring to use it although a few items could be put together this fall. It came in record time. Great Price

Step-by-step instructions are provided for 21 projects including green houses, beehives, rabbit hutches, raised beds, potting sheds, trellises, fences, and more.

Building Projects for Backyard Farmers and Home Gardeners: A Guide to 21 Handmade Structures for Homegrown Harvests Another great book by Chris Gleason! There are easy to follow construction plans with step-by-step instructions for 21 projects including a green house, beehive (I want one!), rabbit hutch (very cool! and I didn't know how much they helped your garden!), raised beds, squash ramp (had never heard of such a thing!), bean leaner (another cool idea), trellises, and more. I love that his projects don't call for hard to find-expensive supplies, and are simple enough my 14 year old son and I can build together. There is lots of great information for anyone! He includes several profiles of farmers also with their hints, tips and advice; a vegetable plant per person chart; some square foot gardening tips and much more. This one should be on everyone's bookshelf, order yours today! So many great projects I've gardened for a number of years now and have had chickens for three years as well. We are always looking for projects to make things nicer on our little suburban homestead. Mr. Gleason's book is a wealth of great ideas and has twenty-one different building projects that you can make to use around your yard and garden. I thought the variety of projects was wonderful, everything from a simple raised bed, to a green house using recycled windows. You can also make a worm bin, a potato planter, and there are a number of different types of trellises for peas, squash, grapes and a really cool tiered lettuce rack, that will be my first project! There are also instructions for building a green house, top bar beehive and a rabbit hutch. The instructions are step-by-step, including photographs and material lists. The author also includes some profiles of his local backyard gardeners and farmers, telling about what they are doing, which was really interesting. I do not have much building experience but I would feel comfortable trying many of these project - and plan to do just that over the next few years. A great book if you're looking to make some handmade additions for your backyard homestead. Highly recommended! Chris Gleason's latest book is a treasure trove of inspiration and advice for any backyard gardener, but what makes it especially cool is that it's rooted right here in our community. Interspersed among the more than 20 projects are profiles of local characters - from Salt Lake City Councilman, Kyle LaMalfa to urban homesteaders, Kevin Celia Bell - each demonstrating how their gardens grow. Detailed building plans for making your little plot of land more prolific and self-sufficient range from rainwater collection and irrigation systems to DIY beehives and cold frames. Each project is illustrated with step by step photographs, calculation tables, materials lists and helpful tips to guide you to success. And best of all many use easy to find reclaimed materials making them easy on the environment and your pocketbook. It's a great resource just in time for the summer season. For those who think their backyard is just too small for a vegetable garden, Salt Lake City author Chris Gleason has two words: Grow up. Vertical gardening, as the name implies, uses trellises, racks, ladders and other small structures so plants grow up, rather than out, which consumes valuable space. Chris Gleason of Salt Lake City explains how to build seven vertical gardening projects in his new DIY book, Building Projects for Backyard Farmers and Home Gardeners (\$19.95, Fox Chapel Publishing) Project includes: Bean leaner Lean a trellis against a wall or fence. Plant beans at its base. The beans will climb the trellis as they grow. Grapevine ladder Use a ladder to encourage upward growth of grapevines. Make sure the ladder is sturdy as grapevines can become quite heavy. Pea trellis Create an upright trellis with chicken wire, mesh, lattice or twine for pea plants to climb. Potato planter Build a wooden box around a cluster of potato plants. As they grow, cover the plants with mulch and straw. Potatoes will continue to set below the exposed foliage. Squash ramp Similar to the bean leaner. Create a ramp using vertical posts and sturdy mesh. As the squash plants grow, the vines will climb the ramp and keep vegetables off the ground. Tiered lettuce rack Create a rack with tiered shelves, (top racks are set back, bottom shelves set forward.) Fill several shallow plastic containers (from the dollar store) with soil and sow lettuce seeds. Place the containers on the tiered shelves, which will allow for even sun exposure. Tomato wall Create a trellis by setting two vertical posts securely at either end of a row of tomato plants. Stretch chicken wire, concrete mesh, lattice or twine between the two posts. Be sure to select "indeterminate" tomato varieties such as Better Boys, Big Beef or Early Girls. Determinate tomatoes don't climb. Plants that can be grown vertically: Beans Cantaloupes Cucumbers Grapes Honeydew melons Hops Tomatoes Peas Potatoes Pumpkins* Squash Watermelon* Zucchini *Large fruit will need extra support Plants with vines, such

as peas, beans and grapes, are obvious choices for vertical gardening, said Gleason, in his new DIY book: *Building Projects of Backyard Farmers and Home Gardeners* (\$19.95, Fox Chapel Publishing). But unexpected plants, such as squash, cucumbers, and tomatoes, can be trained to grow vertically, creating unique landscape features in the process. "Last year, we grew tomatoes up to seven feet high," Gleason said during a recent interview. "This year I want to go higher and do a sort of tunnel that my daughter can walk through." Gleason, his wife - a biology professor at Weber State University - and his 4-year-old daughter live in an average-size home, on a relatively small lot, close to downtown Salt Lake City. By using vertical gardening techniques, they were able to grow more than a dozen different vegetables last summer, including plants, like pumpkins and potatoes, that typically take a lot of space. "We have a little place and the lot is not very big, but it's surprising what you can do in small spaces," Gleason said. For the past 15 years, Gleason has been a full-time woodworker, building projects and cabinets through his business, Gleason Woodworking. Several years ago, he began sharing his skills in how-to books, detailing how to build furniture from wood pallets and how-to make-over your kitchen. Last year, he released *The Art of the Chicken Coop*, which tapped into the interest in backyard chickens. *Library Journal* named it a 2011 "Best Book" in the DIY category. Gleason decided to write *Building Projects* because of the rediscovered appeal of gardening, which has become one of the country's fastest-growing hobbies, and he wanted people to be inspired to try different projects. He devoted a whole chapter of the 159-page book to vertical gardening, because it's an easy way for gardeners to see success. Plants can be placed closer together, which maximizes yield. The method helps eliminate unwanted bugs and pest because there are fewer cool, dark places for them to hide. Gleason said many gardeners also find it easier to harvest their crops with less waste because vegetables aren't hidden from view and accidentally left on the ground to rot. Besides the seven vertical gardening projects (see accompanying list), Gleason's book gives step-by-step instructions for 14 other projects, such as how to build a rainwater harvesting system, raised beds, compost boxes, vermiculture (worm) bins and cold frames to extend the growing season. In the book, Gleason also profiles four of his Utah gardening heroes, including the nonprofit Wasatch Community Gardens and Kyle LaMalfa, an avid gardener who helped launch the Sunday People's Market, and in January began serving as a Salt Lake City councilman. All the projects in Gleason's book can be built with scrap wood or with materials that can easily be purchased at lumber or home improvement stores. He promotes easy and practical projects that will look good in urban yards. "I make stuff that doesn't cost a lot of money," Gleason said. Gleason (*Art of the Chicken Coop: A Fun and Essential Guide to Housing Your Peeps*) calls on his own days as a farm kid in upstate New York and his urban gardening experience to guide the novice as well as the experienced gardener looking for new horticultural methods (rainwater system, above-ground potato planters, bean "leaners," greenhouses, compost boxes, and raised beds). Working with vermiculture bins, the wormy, but-oh-so-useful process of creating rich soil, is even de-grossed in the name of a producing a great wall of tomatoes. All projects for the ultimate urban garden in any climate are DIY, with clear instructions and photos. Potential prices on projects requiring more wood or PVC pipe would have been appreciated, though the charts and calculations on water consumption per household and anticipated veggie needs per family prove invaluable. Instructions on creating dwellings for other backyard pals requiring hives and hutches are a bonus. From the Back Cover Learn How to Transform an Ordinary Farm Backyard into a Productive Farm Homesteading is experiencing a revival among both rural and urban residents who want to get back to basics. *Building Projects for Backyard Farmers and Home Gardeners* gives you both inspiration and instruction for transforming your grassy yard into a lush farm that can produce fresh-food for your family Step-by-step instructions are provided for 21 gardening and animal projects. Detailed plans are accompanied by clear-drawings and a materials list. The author offers expert advice for making all of the essential structures needed to sustain small-scale agriculture. More than just a manual, this book introduces you to some "average joe" farmers who tell you what motivates them to be backyard farmers and the lessons they've learned along the way. Inside you'll find: Gardening Projects: Raised Plank Beds, Rainwater Harvesting System, Greenhouse Squash Ramp, Stacked Lumber Raised Beds, Garden Cart, Tiered Lettuce Rack, Grapevine Ladder, Trellises, Compost Box, Walls of Tomatoes, Cold Frame Irrigation Strategies, Vermiculture Bin, Pea Trellis, Wire Mesh Cloche, Potato Planter, Bean Leaner, PVC Cloche Animal Projects: Beehive, Rabbit Hutch "A great resource for growers and gardeners whose work requires structures that will last, but whose hearts also desire the adornment and nice little touches that made so many old farms little pieces of art. Who would have thought a rain barrel could have panache?!" -Mike McGrath, Host of Public radio's *You Bet Your Garden*, former editor-in-chief of *Organic Gardening Magazine*, and author of *You Bet Your Garden Guide to Growing Great Tomatoes* **RIGHT SIDEBAR ON BCC:** Praise for Chris Gleason's *Art of The Chicken Coop* Named a 2011 Best Book in the Do-It-Yourself Category by *Library Journal* "Craft stylish housing for your backyard chickens .great instructions and clear illustrations." - *Library Journal* Gorgeous chicken coops! Sure, you could probably raise chickens in a wooden box, but with this do-it-yourself guide to coop constructions, you won't have to. - *Sunset Magazine* Coop-a-doodle-do! *Art of the Chicken Coop* provides detailed instructions for building seven functional, cool looking coops. - *Mother Earth News* " profusely illustrated with excellent color photos." - *Backyard Poultry Magazine* About the Author Chris Gleason is the author of several books for the DIY market including *Built-In Furniture for the Home*, *The Complete Kitchen Makeover*, *Complete Custom Closet*, *Old-School Workshop Accessories* and *Building Real Furniture for Everyday*

Life. He was raised on a farm in upstate New York. He has been raising chickens in his Salt Lake City backyard for over six years. He currently builds and sells chicken coops. He has owned Gleason Woodworking Studios for over 13 years.