

# Turn Heads This Summer With a Straw Bale Garden and Watch Friendships Bloom

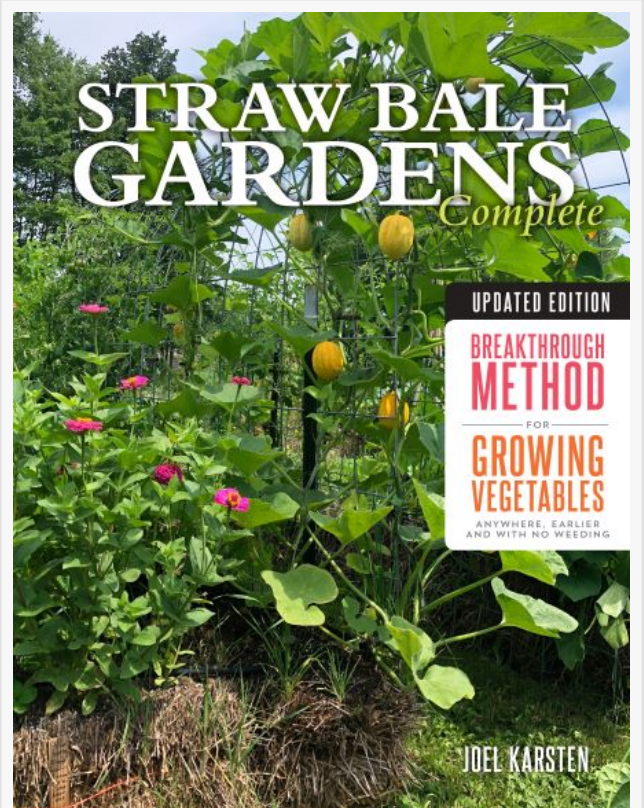
*Joel Karsten encourages his followers to “plant an extra bale” and do the neighborly thing: share the harvest with a family who could use a little help.*

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES, April 5, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Now is the time to lay the groundwork for a summer garden, and a unique technique pioneered by [Joel Karsten](#) not only makes growing fresh veggies possible even for those with bad soil or no backyard at all, but it also might plant the seeds of new friendships.

“The conspicuous nature of planting vegetables in bales of straw out in your backyard is a wonderful conversation starter,” said Joel Karsten, who shares the details of his revolutionary method in his book, [Straw Bale Gardens Complete](#). “In a world where everyone communicates by texts, sharing time chatting over the backyard fence about your straw bale garden is a wonderful way to strengthen friendships.”

Karsten’s method requires less maintenance and weeding, and because of the raised height, makes gardening more accessible for seniors who can’t do the hard physical work of gardening, he explains. The method works in any climate and for nearly every vegetable crop, and doesn’t require any soil at all, so it can be done on concrete, asphalt or even on a rooftop.

Straw Bale Gardens Complete provides an abundance of inspiration, with detailed steps for planning, planting and harvesting a straw bale garden; bale variations and options; watering guidelines; and plant profiles. Also included are tips for irrigating in dry climates, gardening in small and urban spaces, and even DIY instructions for homemade bales from compostable materials. The book is filled with color photos and project ideas, including how to set up a greenhouse for less than \$100.



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“Growing a successful vegetable garden is difficult enough if you have terrific soil to plant your garden into, but with poor soils it can be virtually impossible,” Karsten added. “Straw bale gardening allows anyone, even those with the worst soil conditions, to grow a terrific garden that is inexpensive, productive and much less labor intensive.”

#### About the Author

A horticulture science graduate from the University of Minnesota, Joel Karsten grew up on a crop and dairy farm in southern Minnesota where the seed for his love of gardening was planted. After buying his first home and realizing that nothing could grow in the compacted construction backfill, he experimented with growing tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers in straw bales. He continued to perfect his method for gardening this way for 14 years until a reporter from the local NBC affiliate did a story and he realized just how revolutionary his method was. This prompted him to write his straw bale gardening series of books, which includes *Straw Bale Gardening*, *Straw Bale Solutions* and *Straw Bale Gardens Complete*.



Joel Karsten pioneered this unique method of growing plants in decomposing straw bales.

Karsten also developed BaleBuster® conditioner to help prepare straw bales for optimal plant growth. A keynote speaker, Karsten has made more than 2,000 presentations about straw bale gardening since his first appearance on the local news. He and his wife, Patty, live in Roseville with their dog, Tucker.



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*Straw bale gardening pioneer  
Joel Karsten*

For more information, visit <https://strawbalegardens.com/>, or follow the author on Facebook (LearnToGrowAStrawBaleGarden), Instagram (StrawBaleGardenClub) or YouTube ([Straw Bale Garden Club](#)).

*Straw Bale Gardens Complete, Updated Edition:  
Breakthrough Method for Growing Vegetables Anywhere,  
Earlier and with No Weeding*

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