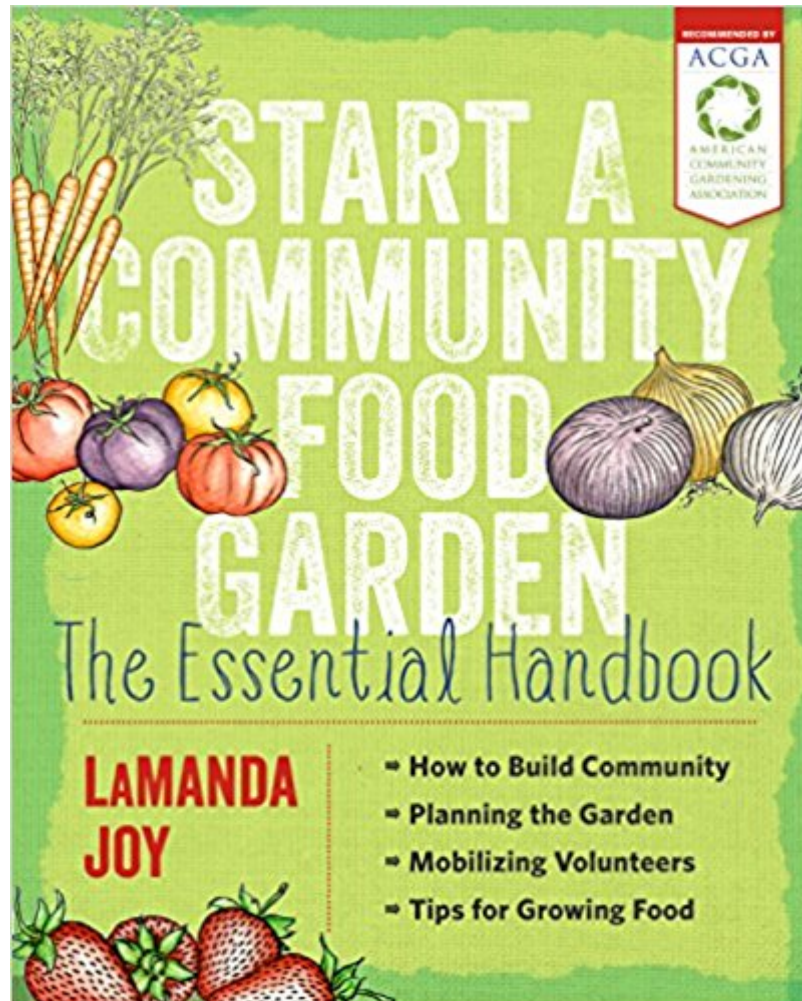


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# Start A Community Food Garden: The Essential Handbook



## Synopsis

Recommended by the American Community Gardening Association Community gardening enhances the fabric of towns and cities through social interactions and accessibility to fresh food, creating an enormously positive effect in the lives of everyone it touches. LaManda Joy, the founder of Chicago's Peterson Garden Project and a board member of the American Community Gardening Association, has worked in the community gardening trenches for years and brings her knowledge to the wider world in *Start a Community Food Garden*. This hardworking guide covers every step of the process: fundraising, community organizing, site sourcing, garden design and planning, finding and managing volunteers, and managing the garden through all four seasons. A section dedicated to the basics of growing was designed to be used by community garden leaders as an educational tool for teaching new members how to successfully garden.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #145,613 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Volunteer Work](#) #32 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique > Urban](#) #135 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Vegetables](#)

## Customer Reviews

I like this well developed book, it's readable and relatively well organized if minimal. It's good on many of the common issues in starting a community garden. Recommended as a first book. Strengths : Well organized, focuses on mission and initial funding, positive. The book starts with the mission statements and developing the organization. The diagram of the reciprocity map of organizations is good at visualizing resources and added the extra star for a five. Also the author covers soil safety and water issues in depth to the appropriate level for a new garden (although how to get these tests for lead and metals is lacking). Most gardens test but bring in soil. Case studies

are strong in the book. (Adds a star.) Things I feel are lacking. 1) Leadership and gardener motivation (understanding motivation in a community garden) could be better. A diagram of motivators and motivation approaches could be better. Working with members that lack motivation is weak in the handbook, and the member types don't map well to leadership theory. Also the type of leadership styles that common in a community garden could be better. 2) Why gardens fail (the ACGA has a lot of research on this topic) and some coverage of traps and pitfalls would be useful. These include 1) failing to secure and retain land; 2) neighbor relations, 3) underestimating costs, and 4) member motivation and conflicts. Nitpicks 3) Conflicts and issues could be addressed. There is a gap in dealing with people when things get crazy. Conflict resolution issues are big in community gardens. 4) Safety - Also could cover attractive nuisance laws, and the food safety issues with donations of produce.

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