



## Gardening Without Work: For the Aging, the Busy & the Indolent (Ruth Stout Classics) (Volume 1)

By Ruth Stout

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### Gardening Without Work: For the Aging, the Busy & the Indolent (Ruth Stout Classics) (Volume 1) By Ruth Stout

Garden expert and lovable eccentric Ruth Stout once said: "At the age of 87 I grow vegetables for two people the year-round, doing all the work myself and freezing the surplus. I tend several flower beds, write a column every week, answer an awful lot of mail, do the housework and cooking-and never do any of these things after 11 o'clock in the morning!"

Her first book about her no-work gardening system, *How to Have a Green Thumb Without an Aching Back*, was the kind of book people can't bear to return. She reports, "A dentist in Pennsylvania and a doctor in Oregon have both written me that they keep a copy of my garden book in their waiting rooms. Or try to; the dentist has had twenty-three copies stolen, the doctor, sixteen."

*Gardening Without Work* is her second gardening book and is even more entertaining and instructional than the first, so hide it from your friends!

How does it work? "And now let's get down to business. The labor-saving part of my system is that I never plow, spade, sow a cover crop, harrow, hoe, cultivate, weed, water or irrigate, or spray. I use just one fertilizer (cottonseed or soybean meal), and I don't go through the tortuous business of building a compost pile. Just yesterday, under the "Questions and Answers" in a big reputable farm paper, someone asked how to make a compost pile and the editor explained the arduous performance. After I read this I lay there on the couch and suffered because the victim's address wasn't given; there was no way I could reach him.

"My way is simply to keep a thick mulch of any vegetable matter that rots on both my vegetable and flower garden all year round. As it decays and enriches the soil, I add more."

Regardless of topic, Ruth Stout's writing is always about living a joyous and independent life, and *Gardening Without Work* is no exception! This book is a treasure for the gardener and a delight even to the non-gardener. First published in 1961, this Norton Creek Press version is an exact reproduction of the original

edition.

Ruth Stout, who, in her teens helped temperance activist Carrie Nation smash saloon windows, could turn any aspect of life into an adventure. She may have been the only woman who both gardened in the nude, wrote a book on happiness (*If You Would Be Happy*) and one about the quirky people who came to visit (*Company Coming: Six Decades of Hospitality*). (Both are available from Norton Creek Press.)

Ruth died in 1980 at the age of 96.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Amazon.com Review

Gardening that requires only planting and picking seems almost sacrilegious, but with Ruth Stout's garden methods, weeds and bugs are no more than fading memories. In a neighborly, conversational tone that makes this how-to book on gardening a lot of fun, Stout gives advice on growing various vegetables and flowers, finding the best catalogues and nurseries, avoiding chemicals on plants, and--best of all--year-round mulching, which is Stout's pièce de résistance that keeps the unwanted elements out of your greened acres. If you've ever wanted your own asparagus bed, but thought it was too exotic a plant to grow on your own, *Gardening Without Work* is a great place to dig in.

#### From the Back Cover

With this delightful book, you can garden with hardly any labor except planting and picking. The Stout System of mulch gardening will allow you to throw away your weeding tools, pesticides, and fertilizers, and will conserve and replenish the soil to make plants thrive. (6 X 9, 226 pages, illustrations)

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Susan Gagnon:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled *Gardening Without Work: For the Aging, the Busy & the Indolent (Ruth Stout Classics) (Volume 1)*. Try to make book *Gardening Without Work: For the Aging, the Busy & the Indolent (Ruth Stout Classics) (Volume 1)* as your good friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you experience alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

#### **Mildred Ralph:**

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**Mathew Jones:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always try to and must have the free time or they will get large amount of stress from both everyday life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the book you have read is Gardening Without Work: For the Aging, the Busy & the Indolent (Ruth Stout Classics) (Volume 1).

**Todd Porter:**

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