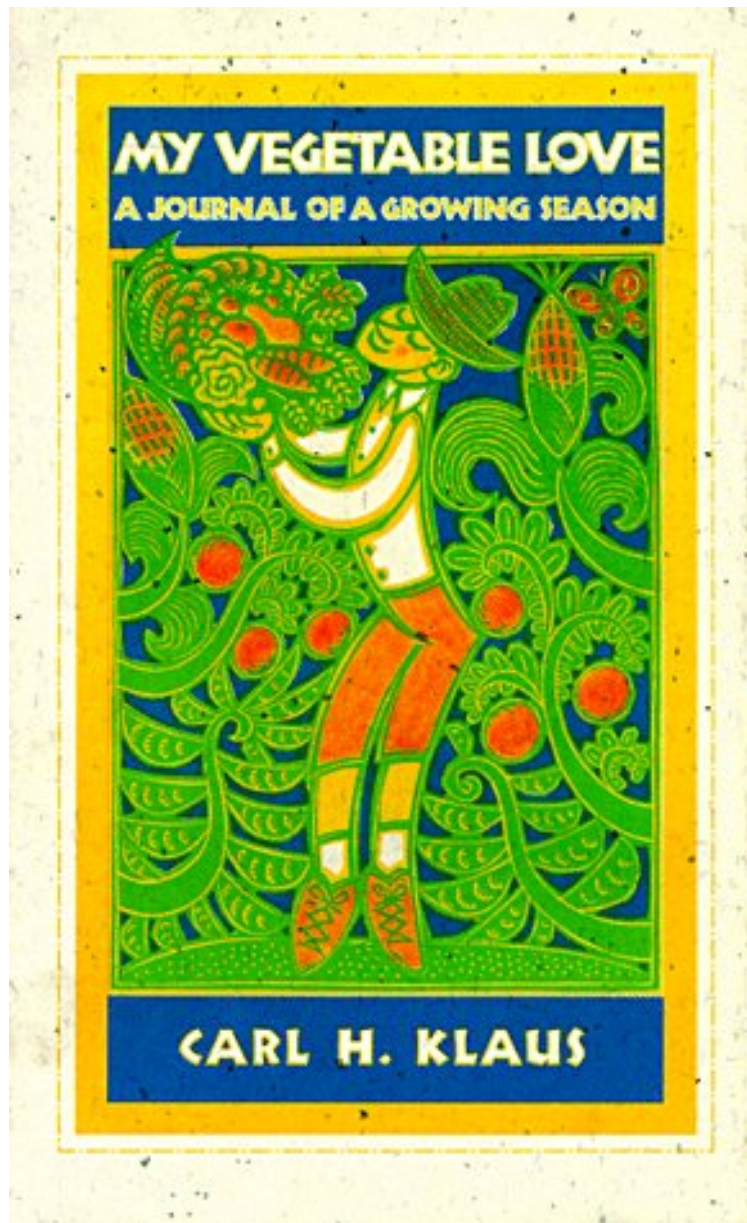


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## My Vegetable Love: A Journal of a Growing Season

*Carl H. Klaus*

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**Carl H. Klaus : My Vegetable Love: A Journal of a Growing Season** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Vegetable Love: A Journal of a Growing Season:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A delight for any gardener ... or anyone! By Linda Diehl DeliaI stumbled upon this book because this author's name came up in a Great Course on writing great sentences, so I figured

I'd see what he wrote. I love gardening, and I love vegetables, so I bought it. Since there is an entry for every day in the gardening year, I started it in March, intending to read one entry each day, like a devotional. Alas, I couldn't stop reading and finished it in no time. Absolutely love the tone, the daily minutiae of the weather, the garden, the author's neighbors, his wife, his life, what's for dinner. Like a long, long letter from a friend you haven't heard from in a year. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What an enjoyable read! By Anne I am growing my first vegetable garden this Summer and reading this book has helped shape my ideas and plantings, it has taught me numerous things about gardening and I can relate to the fears and worries, as well as the enjoyment and love for growing vegetables, and flowers. Thanks for a wonderful book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing! By James E. Mcvoy Much less absorbing than I had expected. I didn't finish reading it out of boredom.

This passionate gardener's daily record of a growing season adds up to one of the best pieces of garden writing in years. But this book is about much more than planting, tending, and harvesting a vegetable garden. It's about all the things that influence this gardener: the weather, the neighborhood, his wife's possibly recurring cancer, the changing nature of the academic community; it's about the last months of his twenty-year-old cat, about his dog, and about all the other humans and animals in his gardening world. And about his family: the aunts and uncles who cared for and fed a six-year-old orphan and instilled in him the understanding that good food was a way of knowing that someone cared. In all the gardens he has tended, the dills he has pickled, and the dinners he has cooked, Klaus has tried to carry on that tradition and pass it on to his own children. No reader will come away from *My Vegetable Love* untouched by the humor, the lyrical quality of the writing, and above all the

From Publishers Weekly Home gardeners, cooks and nature lovers will savor this delightful account of the 1995 growing season in Iowa. Klaus, director of the nonfiction writing program at the University of Iowa, kept a daily record, March through November, of his large vegetable garden. Spring in Iowa City was unusually cold and wet; Klaus depended heavily on row covers to protect his young plants. Summer brought heat, drought and "critters"—squirrels, woodchucks, opossums and deer. Then, a bountiful harvest that extends to Thanksgiving. The book goes beyond tending a garden; Klaus interweaves personal details and concerns of his daily life: he writes about neighbors, his wife's probable recurring cancer, the last weeks leading to the death of his 20-year-old cat, generational conflicts in his department at the university and the meals he concocts from his vegetable bounty. Delectable. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Klaus, an experienced gardener and director of the nonfiction writing program at the University of Iowa, took a research leave in 1994 to write about his vegetable gardening activities in Iowa City from March through November. Explaining why he gardens, Klaus records daily not only the planting, tending, and harvesting of his garden but also the everyday human influences (family, colleagues, friends, pets) that often affect a gardener. For Klaus, vegetable gardening is part of a daily routine that links many experiences in the life of a writer, husband, and father. This thoughtful book is recommended for popular gardening collections. Dale Luchsinger, Athens Area Technical Inst., Ga. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist A devoted vegetable gardener and esteemed professor with the Iowa writing program acknowledges and thoughtfully records the seasonal chores connected with planting and tending that lend symmetry to each day. Klaus' journal, spanning one full growing season, integrates the mundane along with the profound as Klaus mentally prepares for retirement and deals with a mixed diagnosis of his wife's possible recurrence of cancer. Interactions with colleagues, friends, family, and cherished pets pepper these musings on the process and progress of a well-planned and most definitely well-cared-for vegetable garden. Whether one fusses over flower beds or relishes freshly picked produce for savory meals, all gardeners will be able to relate to the setbacks and successes chronicled here. Alice Joyce