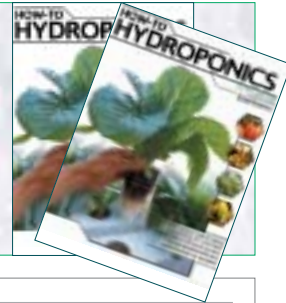


# Book Review



*How-To Hydroponics: 4th Edition*

by Keith Roberto

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Newly released, *How To Hydroponics*, the 4th Edition, is the latest in the best selling series by Keith Roberto. Completely revised and expanded, this edition is the do-it-yourselfer's dream guide to getting started with hydroponics and aeroponic gardening.

Incorporating one-hundred full-sized pages of text, illustrations and clear photographs, *How-To Hydroponics* shows readers in an easy-to-follow, step-by-step fashion, how to design, build and operate their own hydroponics and aeroponics systems, which can be readily made from inexpensive parts.

Numerous chapters are devoted to the science and applications of hydroponics with clear instructions supplied on how plants function and flourish indoors, outdoors and in the greenhouse, all in the author's easy-to-follow, engaging style.

In the Do-It-Yourself section, three brand new garden designs have been added to the existing list. This now includes:

- The famous hydroponic planter/bubbler system
- New - lettuce raft system
- Newly improved - aerospring aeroponic system
- Hybrid hydroponic/aeroponic systems in 4", 5" and 6" PVC
- Completely automatic, gravity-fed systems suitable for growing larger and longer-term plants using the well-known Autopot modules.

Each of the systems you'll learn to build are fully capable of growing all your favourite foods, flowers, herbs and spices. In addition, this 4th edition includes more ideas for small-space indoor gardens.

Chapters include: Plants for Food & Pharmacy; What is Hydroponics?; Hydroponic Mediums; Hydroponic Technology; Plant Nutrition; Let There Be Light; Hydroponics As A Business; Let's Get Growing!; Problems In The Garden; Build Your Own Systems; The Hydroponic Planter; The Lettuce Raft System; The Aerospring System; The Dutch Bucket System; The PVC Pipe Gardens; The Autopot; Gardening Outdoors; and Index.

In his foreword to the book, the author states that this edition represents the largest and most concise body of work that he has accomplished on the subject of hydroponics.

"So much has changed as technology and man's understanding of the science has progressed over the years, that I felt compelled to produce this new edition to keep my readers up to date and to further inspire others to give hydroponics a try. *How-To Hydroponics* has been written in an easy style that combines a basic yet comprehensive background in the science of hydroponics with the hands-on experience that makes learning fun. Whether you grow for fun, food or profit, this completely revised edition covers

everything you'll need to know to develop a working knowledge of the technology."

Contained in the pages of *How-to Hydroponics* is everything you'll need to know about establishing and maintaining a successful soil-free garden, for example, the balance between lighting and nutrients and the chemical changes that occur in the growth process.

Well written and simple to follow, the book provides valuable tips on how you can grow twice as much in half the space while you learn hands-on at your own pace. Plentiful information is provided about which plants to grow, how to start seed and take cuttings to preserve, and how to propagate your favourite plants as well as what makes plants grow, and how to create the perfect garden environment indoors and out.

Step-by-step plans and photographs guide the reader in learning to construct and operate eight basic types of hydroponic systems from inexpensive material, representing considerable savings.

Up-to-date information about the latest technology and techniques is presented, including a section on aeroponics.

Following is one reader's review: "Keith Roberto does an excellent job covering all of the basics of soil-free gardens. This book is easy to understand for people like myself who have little knowledge of the subject...I am looking forward to having a year-round fresh salad garden grown in my own garage!"

Two other readers found the book a perfect guide to help in the construction of a hydroponic unit for their high school: "We were very impressed with the thoroughness of the instructions and the relative ease of assembly involved. We did tons of research about hydroponics for our experiment and scientific paper, and yet we found ourselves constantly referring to your book for a solid, basic understanding of hydroponics and the chemistry involved."

For best results, the author advises, it is recommended that readers use the book in the order it has been written so as not to miss any important information that could sacrifice the quality of results. "Take the time to read the book entirely before beginning any type of planting or construction," says the author. "The important information within will certainly affect your decisions of what, where and how to grow, and it will ultimately improve your chances for success."

*How To Hydroponics*, the 4th Edition, is an in-depth guide that contains every ounce of knowledge you will need to be successful with hydroponics, with even a full chapter on how to make a market for your garden for those who wish to carve out their own slice of a very lucrative gourmet marketplace. 🌱