

Check It Out column for May 16-24

Jump-start Your Garden.

By Kathy Stutzman, Community Relations Assistant

Mary, Mary, quite contrary. How does your garden grown? With silver bells, and cockleshells, and pretty maids all in a row. Okayyyyyy. Obviously, that approach is not going to work anymore.

By now, many of you have been inundated with seed and nursery catalogs, fueling dreams of spring gardens. However, there are a number of you that aren't on any of these mailing lists. You have never planted a garden before but are now considering it in response to these frugal times. Definitely, the idea of planting food essentials and eating locally has increased.

Skip the silver bells and cockleshells! If you are looking for some advice, Warsaw Community Public Library has an abundance of books to jump-start your garden plans. From the very beginning of the process to the table, these books will help with your kitchen garden wish list.

*No garden? No problem!* By Mike Pilcher. Design and planting ideas for the smallest of spaces: steps, walls, roof terraces, balconies, and windowsills. Lots of very creative step-by-step projects (loved the grass globes).

*Got Shade?* by Carolyn Harstad. From woodland gardening to lawn gardening. Covers the different types of shade, shade plant recommendations to garden design. Includes deer-resistant plants.

*The Container Kitchen Garden* by Anthony Atha. Grow your own herb, vegetable or fruit garden in the smallest of spaces. Container gardening basics and design. Includes recipes, and garden schedule.

*Accessible Gardening for People with Physical Disabilities* by Janeen R. Adil. Yes, it is possible to garden when you have a disability, whether you are in a wheelchair, use a walker, or have limited upper body strength! For adults and children.

*Bugs, Slugs and Other Thugs* by Rhonda Massingham Hart. You don't need to use toxic chemicals to rid your garden of pests. Covers methods such as: interplanting plants with natural repellants, effective fencing, noise and motions to scare pests, and using insect and animal predators.

*The New Organic Grower's Four-Season Harvest: How to Harvest Fresh Organic Vegetables From Your Garden All Year Long* by Eliot Coleman. Learn how to harvest fresh vegetables and salad ingredients literally year-round--yet without an expensive greenhouse or indoor light garden set-up.

You don't have to be at the mercy of supermarkets or the economy any more! Learn how to eat better and yet spend less with these resources and more at the Warsaw Library.