

Green Learning Homestead

Part One – What’s Involved with Homestead Living

1 Life on the Green Learning Homestead

This is our story— yarn part of this book. It’s how we went from just getting by into full-fledged homestead living and how our heritage and backgrounds made it all happen. Everything else that follows is how it actually gets done.

- 1.1 Tom and Genny – Partnership to Build the Homestead
- 1.2 Standing Up Our Homestead – 10 Year Chronology
- 1.3 The Homestead Community
- 1.4 Add Your Own Axioms

2 Homestead Living

When emerging from just reading about homestead living, you’ll see the way it really is. You’ll understand how every homesteader is married to the land and all that comes with it. And you’ll start to daydream about your own possibilities.

- 2.1 Reality on Homestead Living
- 2.2 Homestead Infrastructure
- 2.3 Land – Know Before Buying
- 2.4 Soil Testing
- 2.5 Water and Hydrology
- 2.6 Daydreaming – The Vision
- 2.7 Establishing the Right Priorities
- 2.8 Infrastructure for Humans
- 2.9 Infrastructure for Living Things
- 2.10 Infrastructure for Food
- 2.11 Infrastructure for Stuff

3 Soil – Heart and Soul of the Homestead

After taking care of humans, soil is the highest priority. Everything living thing on the homestead depends on the quality of the soil. It’s time to get busy. Know what’s going on under your feet, build your compost, and prepare to grow your own food.

- 3.1 High-Quality Garden Soil – Loose, Loamy, and Ready
- 3.2 Building the Compost Pile
- 3.3 Working the Compost Pile
- 3.4 Creating and Amending Garden Soil
- 3.5 How to Build Garden Soil
- 3.6 Raised Beds – Growing Up Instead of Down
- 3.7 Weed Control
- 3.8 Vermiculture Composting
- 3.9 Fertilizing Garden Soil

4 Getting Started with Growing

With soil development underway, learn all you can about growing. It's more than just throwing seeds in the ground and expecting wonderful results. This takes you from beginner to everything else you'll likely incorporate within your gardens.

- 1.1 Learning How to Grow
- 4.2 Garden Planning
- 4.3 Seed Purchasing
- 4.4 Advanced Garden Planning
- 4.5 Crop Rotation
- 4.6 Succession Planting
- 4.7 Companion Planting
- 4.8 Biointensive Planting
- 4.9 Vertical Growing
- 4.10 Groundcover – Cover Crops – Green Manure
- 4.11 Cheating the Weather
- 4.12 Flowers in the Garden
- 4.13 Container Growing

5 From Seeds to Veggies

Ok, here you go. You've got good seeds in hand and you're ready to start. These are step-by-step procedures on how to develop healthy seedlings. There's lots of ways this can come to fruition—many you'll probably use and some maybe not.

- 5.1 Setting Up the System
- 5.2 Seed Starting Procedure
- 5.3 Up Planting to Pots
- 5.4 Transplanting to the Garden
- 5.5 Direct Seed Starting
- 5.6 Other Than Seeds
- 5.7 Seed Saving

6 Growing Year Round

With the first good growing season behind you, the great lament will be what about the rest of the year. With some advance preparation and garden planning, you can keep fresh veggies coming in right through winter. It's actually quite easy.

- 6.1 Putting Gardens to Sleep
- 6.2 Extending the Growing Season
- 6.3 Low Hoop Winter Growing
- 6.4 Cloches – Mini Greenhouse in a Bottle
- 6.5 Greenhouses
- 6.6 Cold Frames

7 Harvesting, Preserving, and Storage

Alright, you're bringing in the harvest. Now you've got to do something with it. This gets into handling all those veggies. But there's lots more that can be harvested from the homestead. Here you'll find out what to do with everything else that's available.

- 7.1 Food and Nutrition
- 7.2 Vegetables and Fruit
- 7.3 Herbs
- 7.4 Root Cellaring
- 7.5 Canning
- 7.6 Fermenting
- 7.7 Foraging
- 7.8 Air Drying / Dehydrating
- 7.9 Freeze Drying
- 7.10 Chicken Harvest
- 7.11 Meat Harvest
- 7.12 Maple Sap Harvest
- 7.13 Honey Harvest
- 7.14 Butter, Cheese, and Yogurt
- 7.15 Bulk Purchase and Storage

8 Living Things on the Homestead

Surprise! You're not alone on your homestead. You are now part of an ecosystem that includes everything you brought aboard plus all that was here long before you arrived. Learn how to live with your new companions.

- 8.1 Dogs and Cats
- 8.2 Chickens
- 8.3 Goats
- 8.4 Sheep
- 8.5 Worms
- 8.6 Bees and Wasps
- 8.7 Bats
- 8.8 Insects
- 8.9 Critters

9 Managing the Homestead

On every homestead, things need to get done. This is where using a systems approach turns complex into simple. You'll manage everything from water to wood to insects to equipment. These are the every-day nuts and bolts of homestead living.

- 9.1 Communication Management
- 9.2 Water Management
- 9.3 Egg Management
- 9.4 Milk Management
- 9.5 Woodlot Management
- 9.6 Firewood Management
- 9.7 Orchard Management
- 9.8 Berry Management
- 9.9 Grape Management
- 9.10 Pasture Management
- 9.11 Native Bee Management
- 9.12 Honey Bee Management
- 9.13 Nut Management
- 9.14 Material Management
- 9.15 Equipment Management
- 9.16 Emergency Management

Part Two – How to Get It Done

10 Irrigation

There are several ways to approach getting water to your veggies. Some are quite wasteful and some are incredibly simple. You'll also be introduced to olla irrigation which has proven to be excellent for growing in gardens.

- 10.1 Options for Irrigation
- 10.2 Impact of Water Pressure
- 10.3 Planning an Irrigation System
- 10.4 Distribution Manifolds
- 10.5 Installing Infrastructure
- 10.6 Olla Irrigation
- 10.7 Assembling Olla Pots
- 10.8 Planting the Ollas
- 10.9 Bucket Irrigation

11 Harvesting Free Water

Free water is that which passes through your homestead—horizontally with creeks and streams and vertically with rain. This is how to harvest free water from the sky with a water tote system that pulls together several concepts that work quite well.

- 11.1 Living with Free Water
- 11.2 Water Catchment Systems
- 11.3 Water Tote Foundations
- 11.4 Water Tote Frame
- 11.5 Putting Pipes Together

12 Building Out the Homestead

The first and most obvious point to potential homesteads is that everything needed will not be there. Stuff has to be built. This is how to turn daydreams into reality with step-by-step procedures for those parts of your homestead you'll be using every day.

- 12.1 Planning a Project
- 12.2 Buried Utilities
- 12.3 Foundations
- 12.4 Getting Ready to Build
- 12.5 Protecting the Work
- 12.6 Assembling Walls
- 12.7 Cutting Flat Panels
- 12.8 Cut-Outs from Panels
- 12.9 Door and Window Hardware
- 12.10 Installing Hardware the Easy Way
- 12.11 Painting Flat Panels
- 12.12 Preparing Flat Panel Doors
- 12.13 Floors and Decks
- 12.14 Putting Up the Structure
- 12.15 Securing to the Foundation
- 12.16 Screening
- 12.17 Installing Wall Panels
- 12.18 Shed Roofs
- 12.19 Installing Rafters and Runners
- 12.20 Cutting Polycarbonate Roofing
- 12.21 Installing Roof Panels
- 12.22 Installing Doors, Windows, and Closers
- 12.23 Installing Utilities
- 12.24 Finishing Touches

13 Fences

There are pretty fences and there's homestead fences—those that actually work. This is how to go from concept to completion with step-by-step procedures to help remove the mystery of fences and avoid mistakes.

- 13.1 Homestead Fences
- 13.2 Planning a Fence Project
- 13.3 Installing Gates
- 13.4 Installing Corners and End of Runs
- 13.5 Installing Bridge Posts
- 13.5 Installing Fence Posts
- 13.6 Installing Fencing
- 13.7 Making Changes to Fences
- 13.8 Temporary Fences

Part Three – Open Access Material

14 Tools

Some tools are great and some terrible. Nevertheless, you will need tools. Shown and described here are the tools that make homestead work possible. There's everything from those you already know to those you might never suspect.

14.1 Non-Powered Tools

- 14.1.1 Small Gardening Tools
- 14.1.2 Building and Maintenance Tools
- 14.1.3 Long-Handle Tools
- 14.1.4 Other Important Tools

14.2 Power Tools

- 14.2.1 Small Battery-Powered Tools
- 14.2.2 Small Electric-Powered Tools
- 14.2.3 Large Power Tools
- 14.2.4 Chainsaws

14.3 Tools with Wheels

- 14.3.1 Small Tools with Wheels
- 14.3.2 Medium Tools with Wheels
- 14.3.3 Tractors – Big Tools with Wheels
- 14.3.4 Tugs, ATVs, Trucks, and Trailers
- 14.3.5 Other Useful Tools with Wheels
- 14.3.6 Not-Quite-a-Wheel Tools

Green Learning Homestead

14.4 Homestead Clothing

14.4.1 Protection for the Body

14.4.2 Protection for the Feet

14.4.3 Protection for the Hands

14.5 Chemicals on the Homestead

15 Resources

It starts with a library, but there are so many possibilities that hoping to find the right books, websites, and material can be a colossal waste of time. These three areas are categorized and detailed to help you find what you need—quickly and easily—when you need it.

Then there's all of those things we built to make our homestead work. You'll find basic details so you can adapt these projects for your own needs. Finally, homesteads are never finished. New projects are always looming in daydreams.

15.1 Information – The Key to Success

15.2 Material – Where to Find Stuff

15.3 Small Projects

15.4 Medium Projects

15.6 Large Projects

15.7 Upcoming Projects