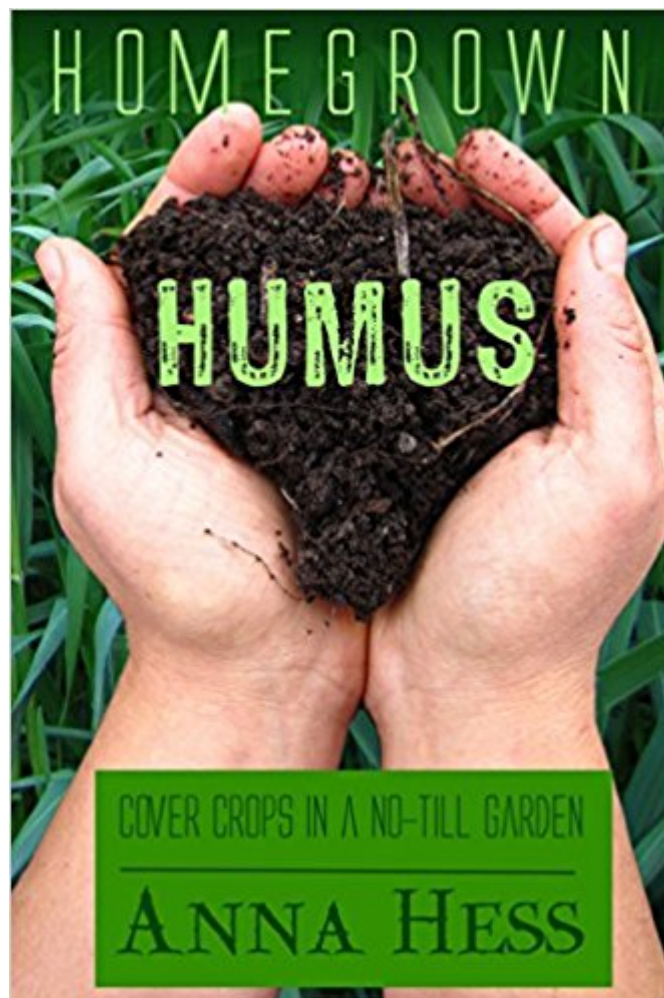




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Homegrown Humus: Cover Crops In A No-Till Garden (Permaculture Gardener) (Volume 1)



Synopsis

Homegrown humus is easy with cover crops! Cover crops are a simple, cheap way to boost your soil's organic matter, to fight weeds, to prevent erosion, to attract pollinators, and to keep the ecosystem in balance. Unfortunately, most information on growing cover crops is written for people who plow their soil every year and are willing to spray herbicides. You can get all of the same benefits in a no-till garden, though, if you're clever. Homegrown Humus details five no-till winners in depth --- buckwheat, sweet potatoes, oilseed radishes, rye, and oats. Profiles of other species suggest gardening conditions when you might want to try out sunflowers, annual ryegrass, barley, Austrian winter peas, crimson clover, cowpeas, or sunn hemp as well. Meanwhile, the book delves into finding cover-crop seeds, planting cover crops in a no-till garden, and easily killing cover crops without tilling or herbicide use. Understanding the C:N ratio of cover crops helps determine how long to wait between killing cover crops and planting vegetables, as well as how to maximize the amount of humus you're adding to your soil. Cover crops are an advanced gardening technique bound to increase your vegetable yields, but are simple enough for beginners. Give your garden a treat --- grow some buckwheat!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anna Hess enjoys writing about her adventures, both on her blog at www.WaldenEffect.org and in her books. Her first paperback, *The Weekend Homesteader*, helped thousands of homesteaders-to-be find ways to fit their dreams into the hours leftover from a full-time job. Hess is

also the author of *The Naturally Bug-Free Garden*, *Trailersteading*, *The Ultimate Guide to Soil*, and several ebook-only titles. She lives with her husband in the mountains of southwest Virginia.

Good book like all her others. I will use the info. in here to get my next ground cover right. i don't own livestock, but if I did, this would really help with quick green manure fix and fodder ideas. Nothing goes to waste. Love that she has tried these methods and knows what works and what doesn't, even with the animal feed from what is left over when spring arrives. Great info. am going to use as soon as i can!

After following Anna's blog for many years and hearing about the various positives and negatives of each cover crop she has tried, it is wonderful to have an easy reference with all of the information in one place. Anna's writing style is light and fun, yet she imparts a great deal of information that I will be able to apply to my zone 5 garden. Thank you, Anna! I will be purchasing more of your titles!

If you love to garden with good soil and no chemicals, then you'll want to read this book. I've already reserved an area of my son's small farm to try the buckwheat method of improving the soil. Also planning on growing the sweet potatoes to see how that works out as well. Lots of info packed in this little gem!!

It can be difficult to find information on cover crops that focuses on not tilling your soil, which is something I'm not willing nor interested in doing for our first garden on our new farm. We have heavy clay content in our rocky soil, and I discovered right away with a small test garden that digging to incorporate organic matter and nutrients was laborious and inefficient (not to mention, back breaking). Nearby neighbors have tractors and tilled gardens, and I'm sure I could sweet talk one into plowing up a garden spot for us, but I don't want to rely on that and am trying to focus on permaculture practices instead. That being said, I need a way to bring organic matter in other than simply trucking in pre-blended soil for my raised beds from the closest source, which is over an hour away and can also get very expensive. *Homegrown Humus* addresses this need perfectly and gave me both the background information I craved to understand how cover crops work as well as ideas and solid information on actual implementation. The author writes in both an easy and fun to understand style that will wet your appetite for her other excellent e-books that address a variety of permaculture and homesteading related projects. Very pleased with this selection and will be referring back to it as needed during the upcoming gardening season.

This book is no bull, Anna Hess is one smart lady, who can put together books in a well organized, cohesive, well-thought manner. This book is no exception. Her work is very valuable. I have only found a few errors along the way of exploring her works. Humus and cover crops are very important to gardening permaculture.

BEST BOOK EVER !!!! The suggestions are straight forward and will be EASY to implement for my ZONE 9 with our compacted CLAY soil. I already have some of the needed seeds, but will most definitely order the Oilseed Radishes to break up the clay. Thank you so much for writing this book because I am so sick of going to the home improvement store to lug home more bags of garden soil (difficult for a 72 yr. old). Now I can make my own. Thank you !!!!

Anna does an amazing job of explaining cover crops and how to apply them in simple basic steps. She takes the guess work out and gives you first hand knowledge of how you can transform your garden by literally growing healthy nutritious soil for a fraction of the cost of buying it. Help care for the planet and grow delicious healthy food easily by following her great advice and easy action steps.

I think the fact that you can see the results from cover crops and green manures so quick makes it much more interesting. It is so pretty to see garden plants with clover protecting it from the sun. It is also nice to know everything in the garden is good for it.

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