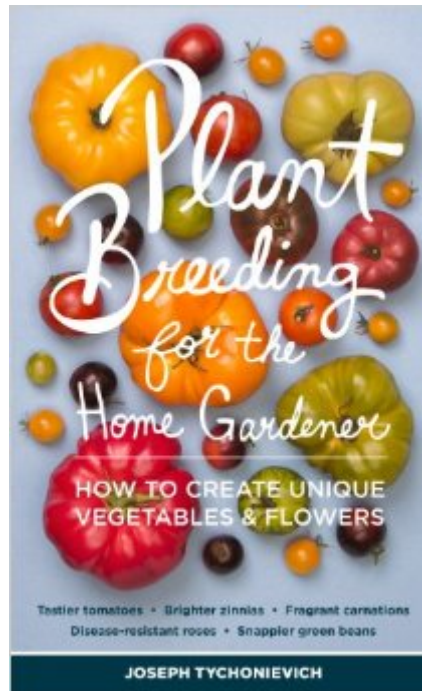


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# Plant Breeding For The Home Gardener: How To Create Unique Vegetables And Flowers



## Synopsis

Brighter zinnias, fragrant carnations, snappier green beans Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener makes it easier than ever to breed and grow your own varieties of vegetables and flowers. This comprehensive and accessible guide explains how to decide what to breed, provides simple explanations on how to cross plants, and features a basic primer on genetics and advanced techniques. Case studies provide breeding examples for favorite plants like daffodils, hollyhocks, roses, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Synopsis- A nice brief overview of plant breeding. It explains plant breeding and genetics in an accessible, non-technical way. The problem being that the author tries so hard to avoid using scientific terms and technical jargon that it lessens the books value as a reference. I recently learned of this book and since I still had some birthday gift-cards burning holes in my wallet, I had to find out what it had to offer. I particularly wanted to compare it with Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties: The Gardener's & Farmer's Guide to Plant Breeding & Seed Saving by Carol Deppe, a book that changed my life. I think the comparison of the two books is very relevant since they largely cover the same topic, how anyone can breed plants for their own use and enjoyment in their own backyards. I've owned "Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener" for two days and have just finished it. After reading it, I have to say that this is a good book, but Deppe's book is by comparison a GREAT book. Both books have their strengths and both are absolutely worth reading, but this is the lesser, lighter

of the two. What I suspect Mr. Tychonievich was trying to do with this book was make plant breeding accessible to any gardener without intimidating them with high-falutin' language. He does this by trying to simplify plant breeding and genetics into common language and using a many analogies rather than resorting to scientific or genetic jargon. This is a valid approach, and he makes the point several times that you can be a plant breeder without knowing anything about genetics.

I happened across this book in my prolific Internet reading, so I am unsure who to exactly credit for bringing it to my attention, but I am very glad they did. While I have always had an interest in plants and gardening with Botany being the only class I EVER achieved straight A's in I had never, seriously thought about attempting to breed my own plants. I had a basic grasp on the biology involved but the patience and care required always seemed a bit too intimidating. The highest praise I can give Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener is that it made me think, seriously, that I could start creating my own hybrid plants right here in my own backyard. The book is clear, friendly and makes plant breeding all seem very easy, even if it is a bit time and work intensive to accomplish. Tychonievich entices you in gently first with a bit of history on how a simple native grass was eventually bred into one of the most important foodstuffs of our planet corn. Then, he makes the case for rediscovering breeding in your own garden, how and why to make a breeding plan and some very clear instructions on the mechanics of making a cross. Only then does he whip a bit of science and genetics on you, so you can gain some deeper understanding of what effects your breeding is creating in the plants themselves. This becomes very important to your success so that you can understand the genetic issues that inbreeding and self-pollination can cause. Tychonievich even goes into the world of F1 hybrids explaining what they are and how they are created, why they are necessary and even how you might create them yourself. Once you start creating plants, you'll need to select those with your favorite or desired traits.

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