



## **COMMUNITY GARDENERS AS CHANGE AGENTS**

Since its launch in 2006, SPIN-Farming has been championed by those who understand that to create a world that feeds itself less destructively and more healthfully, a significant number of us are going to have to get beyond discussion and debate and start growing. Many of these SPIN champions have been community gardeners. At neighborhood meet-ups, sustainability forums, eco-expos and green gabfests, they have been using SPIN's message to simplify and sell a new approach to food production. And they began to see a need to translate the SPIN-Farming system to the community gardening context. So now there is SPIN-Gardening.

SPIN-Gardening shows how to achieve levels of productivity and diversification that go far beyond current community gardening practices, and turns a sub-acre plot into a significant source of food. What differentiates SPIN-Gardening from other gardening approaches is that it is:

- production-driven
- organic-based
- post-harvest oriented
- multi-locational in scope
- family and civic-minded

Consider it a DIY food production system that encompasses planning, planting, growing, harvesting and post-harvesting. The system enables community gardeners to produce a steady supply of a wide variety of vegetables that have all the quality of farm-grown and all the convenience of store-bought by working alone or with family and friends.

**More>>>**

As importantly, SPIN-Gardening helps “professionalize” community gardening - without taking the fun out of it! A problem frequently cited by community gardeners is that their efforts are not taken seriously and dismissed as simply feel good projects. So, just as SPIN-Farming helps independent farmers create and maintain a professional identity, SPIN-Gardening confers purpose, legitimacy and an economic value to community-based food production. In fact, community gardens serve as important testing grounds for future farmers. And, for those gardeners who, often quite by accident, discover they have the talent and the drive to “go pro”, the SPIN system makes it easy for them to channel their entrepreneurial spirit into starting a farm business.

SPIN-Gardening can be practiced in community gardens at every level of society to achieve food security, from suburban subdivisions to inner-city public housing. Creating a SPIN-style food production group galvanizes any community around an issue that is important to everyone and makes the most of each individual’s abilities. Each group will have human and material assets, and individual skills need to be matched up with appropriate tasks. Older people might be used for prepping produce or other less strenuous tasks, while younger people might be used for garden area preparation.

As SPIN champions well know, local food production needs to be conceptualized and implemented, and there is no one-size-fits-all plan. Individuals and communities will create local food systems that reflect their abilities, needs and resources. The role of SPIN-Gardening is to help them help others see what is possible and do what is practical. What is possible are communities that promote individual self-reliance while acknowledging the world’s inter-dependence. What is practical is to grow wherever you were planted, whether it is in the middle of an urban jungle or on the suburban fringe.

What SPIN champions are telling us is that they aren’t just growing food. They are growing a new culture. If you’d like to join with them, find out more about SPIN-Gardening at [www.spingardening.com](http://www.spingardening.com)

***SPIN-Gardening Makes Agriculture Accessible to Anyone, Anywhere!***