

AS SEEN IN
Living
MARTHA STEWART



NO PARK ZONE
 1. Each vegetable bed shares space with flowers, including nasturtiums and zinnias.
 2. The garden is bordered on one side by simple boxwood balls, which help define the space.
 3. Steiner gave this bed to her 12-year-old stepdaughter to plan and tend herself.
 4. Two years ago, Steiner added additional beds behind the garage for squashes, melons, and more tomatoes.

a driveway reinvented

How one woman turned a barren plot beside her garage into a lush, bountiful KITCHEN GARDEN productive enough to feed her family.

WHEN DOCUMENTARY PRODUCER Nancy Steiner moved into a new house in upstate New York a few years ago, she wanted a big vegetable garden for her family to enjoy. But she did not see a spot for it. After she and a landscape-designer friend, Leslie Needham, walked around the property, they finally stopped at the gravel driveway beside Steiner's detached garage. The answer was right in front of them.

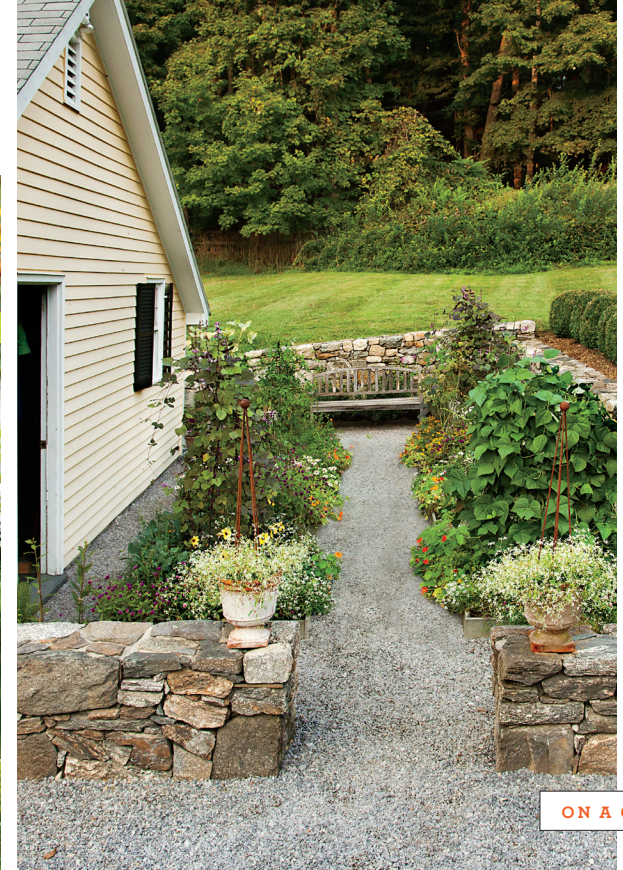
Wow, Needham recalls thinking, *this spot gets eight hours of sunlight a day, it's the right size, and it's not being used.* Within a few weeks, they had erected six 5-by-7-foot raised beds on the space and filled them with organic soil. They left paths around each bed to allow for easy access and built a low stone wall at the entrance to help define the space. "My goal was to create a neat, organized area and let Nancy take it from there," says Needham.

Today, Steiner grows enough to supply her family—husband David Michaelis and her

two children and three stepchildren, ages 12 to 21—with organic produce through spring, summer, and fall. ("When everyone's home, that's a lot of lettuce," says Steiner.) She maximizes her beds by planting strategically, gardening vertically wherever possible, coaxing cucumbers and beans onto tuteurs, and growing shade-craving lettuce under eggplant or broccoli. Flowers provide beauty and also serve a practical purpose: The marigolds help deter pests; the nasturtiums go into salads. The nontraditional location has other advantages. The gravel helps keep out deer and rabbits. The raised beds allow Steiner to easily control the soil quality. And the plot's proximity to the garage keeps tools and supplies close. "This is a working person's garden," says Steiner. It's so low maintenance, it practically calls for drive-through gardening: "When I pull up at the end of the day, I snip a few vegetables and walk into the house."



SPACE SAVER



ON A GRID



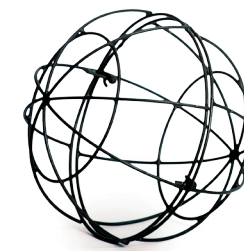
EASY PICKING

FUELED BY NATURE
 Clockwise from far left To save space, Steiner grows pickling cucumber vertically, on a wooden tuteur ("the orange color means they've overripened, but they still taste every bit as good," she says). Low stone walls frame the entrance to the garden, which is organized in a tidy grid; convenient paths around the beds make harvesting simple. Needham, left, and Steiner pick beans near the purple gomphrena.

plot twists Decorative items add visual interest to a hardworking vegetable garden.



LEMON POP
 This classic metal can holds a gallon of water and adds a bright accent. \$38, shopterrain.com.



SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
 Both decorative and functional, this 18-inch iron ball provides a form for plants to climb. \$123, campodefiore.com.



LABEL CONSCIOUS
 The stoneware plant markers feature a chalkboard finish. \$15 for 4, williams-sonoma.com.



TOWER POWER
 Made of hardwood saplings, this rustic twig tuteur spans five feet. \$85, whiteflowerfarm.com.

PHOTO TWISTS, FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS (2); BRYAN GARDNER; EMILY KATE ROEMER