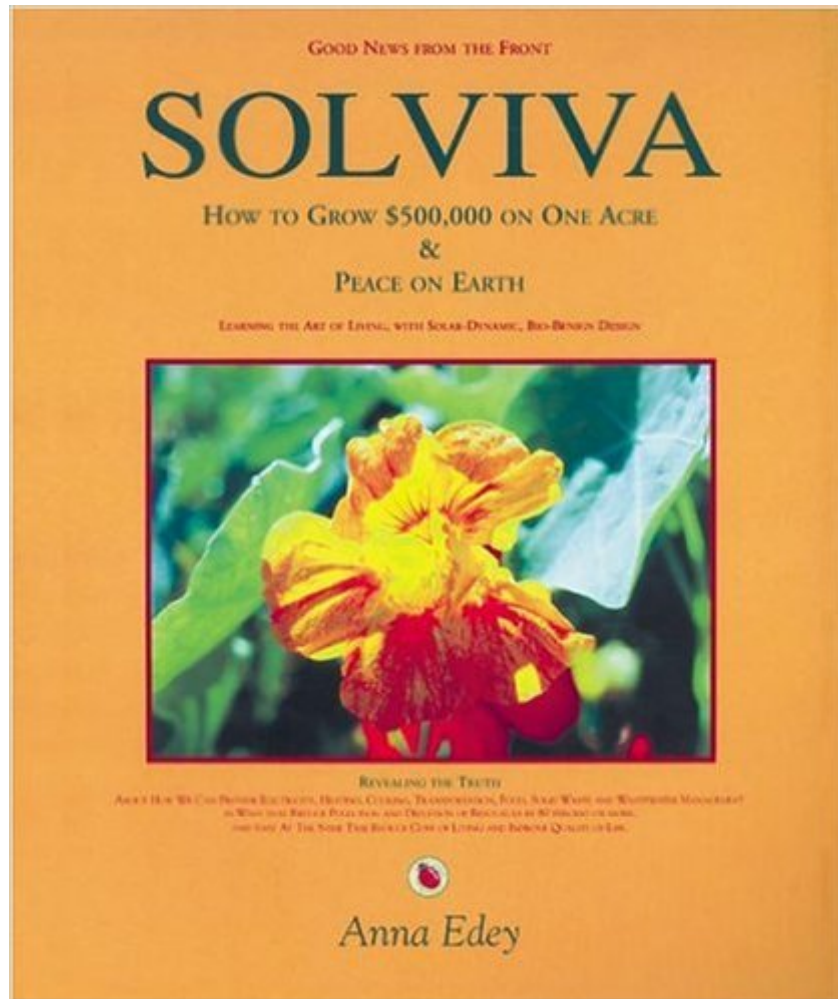


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Solviva: How To Grow \$500,000 On One Acre, And Peace On Earth



Synopsis

This book is about one woman's vision and commitment to learning to live sustainably and in harmony with life on Earth. Since 1976 Anna Edey has made one astonishing discovery after another, developing methods of sustainable living under the name Solviva Solar-Dynamic, Bio-Benign Design. The results of her experiments and methods have again and again exceeded highest hopes and expectations. Solviva describes the exciting trials and triumphs of her journey and offers convincing proof that we can, with today's technology and knowledge, live in ways that reduce pollution and depletion of resources by 80 percent or more, and at the same time reduce the cost of living and improve the quality of life in urban and rural locations. Solviva contains 155 color illustrations and detailed instructions and recommendations to help others along their own journeys toward living sustainably.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Solviva-How to Grow \$500,000 on One Acre & Peace On Earth. This is a strange book! A How-To book it is not. It is a hodge podge of thoughts, green speak, observations, the author's past 20 years of life, some interesting applications of solar structures, much green speak, her experience with a greenhouse and the business it generated, more green speak, ...full-color pictures of plants, animals, insects, artwork, green speak, and lastly green speak. Whether written this way on purpose or not it is confusing. It is a very disjointed book; more about a person's philosophy of life than about a greenhouse that was heated and cooled by strictly solar methods. The book's layout and progression

is far from logical and it is quite a chore wadding through all of the philosophizing to arrive at some meat. Does this book have value? Some. But cut out all of the psycho babble, green speak and moralizing, rearrange the contents, do some more homework on solar and other people's projects and failures, get a few scientific facts verified, more data and details on what Mss Edey did and did not do, then perhaps it might be a worthwhile book. One glaring lack, at least as far as I am concerned; it is not a How To book. Maybe that is not a big issue when one is writing in a diary, but when the book title page uses those words and the book does not deliver, then it is a major issue. The income generating potential of a solar heated greenhouse that uses strict organic methods has a lot of merit and expanded outdoors during the summer months one could expect that the income would increase. She makes a claim that \$500,000 is possible with the 10,000 sq. ft. greenhouse and about an acre of land.

I am a gardener with a few years of experience and a lot of book learning on the subject. This is my opinion, after reading the book, and coming to it from that point of view. If you aren't very well read on gardening or mini-farming, I'd recommend skipping this book until you've read a few others, such as Bartholomew's Square Foot Gardening, Jeavons books on biointensive gardening, and a few others. Otherwise you'll buy too deeply into what Edey is trying to sell. If you are pretty well read on the topic and have gardening/mini-farming experience, then the book is a reasonable weekend read. Either way, unless you're extremely flush with cash, I wouldn't buy the book, I'd only spend time on it if it's available from the library. The title is misleading, the "How To Grow \$500,000 On One Acre" is catchy, but not realistic. The author says that her "gross income was up to \$50,000 a year," (pg 158). "up to" ought to raise an eyebrow. I'm supposing that the reader is supposed to assume that the author grossed \$50K, but that's not what it says. It also wasn't indicated how many years this was achieved, though there was an earlier reference to the author working at it for 8 years. There wasn't also a hard indicator regarding how long it took to build up to this, the term "soon" was used, but could mean just about anything. The author then made some seriously goofball (in my opinion) extrapolations: that if the set up had been run more professionally, the author would have been earning well over \$100k; that if a full acre was used, then that would obviously mean earnings would be over \$500k. There's nothing to support such claims. In fact, at one point she indicated that "gross income never did reach much beyond the \$50,000.

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