

Aquaponic Farming (vegetables plus fish onland)

<https://www.facebook.com/raincoastaquaponics/>

Adrian Southern and Whelm King of Duncan (who sell through the Cowichan Cow-op) have just released the book, **The Aquaponic Farmer: A Complete Guide to Building and Operating a Commercial Aquaponic System**. This is the process of raising fish and vegetables together (e.g. trout and lettuce), and for the first time all you need to know to do it on a commercial level (with cold-water fish!) is available in this comprehensive book. So read on to find out why the authors think aquaponics is where it is at!

<https://www.newsociety.com/blog/2017/Ten-Benefits-of-Aquaponic-Farming>

In celebration of the recent publishing of our book, *The Aquaponic Farmer*, we are proud to give you our **Top Ten reasons why we love aquaponics!** [which appear to address a number of the challenges of Southern Gulf Islands Farming]

Hybrid Vigour. By combining two systems (aquaculture and hydroponics) we create one hybrid system that is greater than the sum of its parts, solving the primary problems of both independent systems while retaining all the benefits.

Water Conservation. Water use is reduced by up to 90% compared with traditional (soil) farming. A lettuce grown in soil consumes about 15 liters of water to grow. We produce lettuce using less than 2 liters of water, and much of those 2 liters is used again to fertilize soil crops or to produce organic fertilizer.

A Balanced Meal. Aquaponics provides both vegetables and protein, and it is not restricted to just fish. Other aquatic species can be cultured in the system such as shrimp/crayfish and mussels/clams.

Food Security. Aquaponic systems can be made resilient to poor growing conditions through environmental controls, enabling year-round production, and it is drought and flood tolerant.

Remote Locations. Aquaponics is ideal for remote locations with poor traditional growing conditions, particularly those locations with cold climates where fresh vegetables are commonly imported at very high cost. Systems can be operated off-grid, are easy to ship in pieces and assemble with little manpower.

Urban Locations. Aquaponics farms require no arable land so they are ideal for what would otherwise be food deserts such as empty commercial and industrial property or unused parking lots.

Family Farm Profits. Too many smaller commercial farmers rightly complain about overlong working hours and minimal returns. Aquaponics can change this. Our system is operable by one or more people working a combined 40 hours per week or less (not including sales and admin) and can yield an excellent farm income. The system also incorporates the capacity to use the created fertilizer to supplement land-based crops or orchards.

A System Of Permaculture. Good aquaponic systems incorporate principles of permaculture: efficient use of resources, reduction/elimination of wastes, positive environmental impact, and more.

Personal Satisfaction. The rewards of working with an ecosystem are great. Nurturing young plants and caring for your fish, working in the sheltered outdoors, providing food for your community, and attending farmers markets are all fun and rewarding!

No Weeds. Enough said? We hope you'll join us as pioneers in the world of aquaponics! Adrian Southern and Whelm King

<https://www.friendlyaquaponics.com/commercial-system/> **see also Friendly Aquaponics Business Guide pdf**

Friendly Aquaponics – D-I-Y Organic Commercial Aquaponics: You Can Build a Commercial Aquaponics System for organic farming easily AND economically with our **Do-It-Yourself packages!** (including converting existing greenhouses)

Our 4,096 square foot commercial DIY system costs \$21,995 for materials in Hawaii. On the mainland, the same materials cost \$16,425 USD (early 2014 - **\$21,000 CDN**). This is \$5.37 USD per square foot of growbed area, INCLUDING the cost for our commercial plans; you source most items locally.

Compare this cost (\$16,425) to the same size kit system from “a well-known aquaponics consultant”, which costs \$82,500, or \$20.14 per square foot of grow bed area. Their system holds 7,536 plants, while our system holds 26,410 plants; 3.5 times as many. Their system costs \$10.94 per plant space, while our system costs \$0.62 per plant space.

You will save time and money, and be able to obtain USDA Organic Certification like so many of our students, when you purchase a Friendly Aquaponics Commercial DIY information package for organic farming. Why? First, organic farming in the soil can take you years to master and become profitable. How do I know? I used to farm in the soil. What I remember most is how much my back hurt at the end of the day from hoeing and pulling weeds. I also remember the constant struggle to “make my day pay”.

In contrast, most of the work in your commercial aquaponics organic farming operation is done standing up, in the shade. Or even sitting down, if you prefer. And mastering commercial aquaponics is easy with our information packages, which have all the answers you need in an easy-to-understand form.

To help ensure your success with commercial aquaponics, we supply complete, free technical support via email FOREVER, at no additional charge, because our systems work so well, and our information is so complete and comprehensive. No one else in the business can afford to do this, because their information is not as complete and based on actual experience commercial farming as ours is.

Purchase The Commercial Aquaponics DIY package & Plans: \$999 USD

CLICK ON THE BLUE LINK BELOW to download (free!) “The Business Of Aquaponics”. It’s a chapter from our \$999 “Commercial DIY Package” that will give anyone building a DIY aquaponics system a head start on understanding what’s necessary to be profitable in commercial aquaponic operation.

Free Download Of “The Business Of Aquaponics”

You may be thinking about purchasing a “kit” commercial aquaponics system from one of the consultants or greenhouse distributors to “get it right”, or to save work in constructing your system. But there’s nothing magical about these kits. When they arrive at your site, they are simply pallets of pumps, fish tanks, trough parts, and greenhouse parts. You STILL have to build the system. You have to do the grading for the system and greenhouse, install the fish tanks, trench for plumbing, install pumps, blowers, airstones, and assemble troughs. With our package, you get complete system plans, and a 54-page Construction Manual with plenty of photos and easy-to-understand instructions.

A CRITICAL part of this package you will need in order to be profitable at a commercial aquaponics operation is the section on Food Safety Certification under the new FSMA law, which is required to sell more than \$25,000 worth of produce a year. We also cover HACCP certification, the certification that is required to be able to sell the more profitable products you can make, such as lettuce and salad mixes and other types of aquaponic products.

Also, there’s a HUGE difference between our technology and the “kit” systems: when you buy the materials and equipment for your system from local sources and use our information package to put it together, you get your organic farming system and greenhouse for one-quarter to one-third of what you’d pay the kit sellers for the SAME stuff. We don’t make any money from selling “stuff” the way the kit sellers do, and so, we’re free to recommend the best, most economical, most durable, locally available “stuff” to build your farm from.

There’s more: the real difference between us and the kit sellers is that they have never operated a commercial aquaponics farm, and can’t teach you what you need to know to be successful growing and marketing aquaponic vegetables. We have been organic farming with aquaponics for nine years now. Because we do this for a living, we have the best information on the most critical part of the aquaponic equation: how to make money organic farming with your commercial aquaponics farm.

THERE ARE SOME BEAUTIFUL KIT SYSTEMS OUT THERE; TOO BAD THEY ALL LOSE MONEY! To see some high-tech aquaponics systems growing beautiful vegetables that completely failed to make a profit, just download (again, free!) the following PowerPoint slideshow “Aquaponic Failures”. It’s a critical look at the aquaponics failures of the last four years that will give you an understanding of why they failed and what they should have done differently to succeed. [See also **Kit versus D-I-Y start-up costs** at the start of this section, and the separate **Aquaponics Business Guide pdf**].