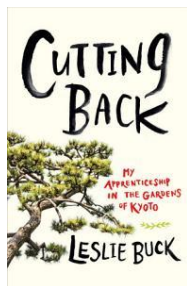
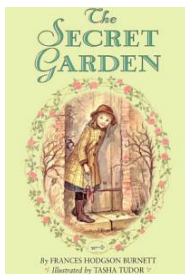


Secret Garden Book Club List

2018



Cutting Back: My Apprenticeship in the Gardens of Kyoto
by Leslie Buck

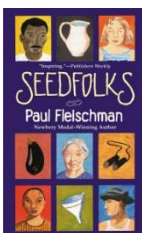


The Secret Garden
by Frances Hodgson Burnett



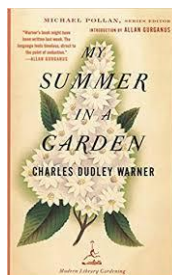
The Man Who Planted Trees
by Jena Giono

2019



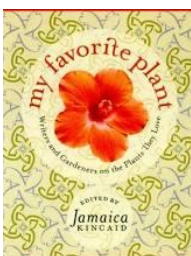
Seedfolks
by Paul Fleischman

A young adult book about a year in the life of a neighborhood brought together through gardens created on a vacant lot.



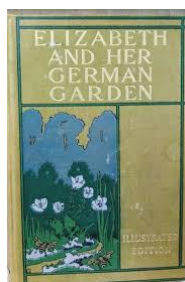
My Summer in a Garden
by Charles Dudley Warner

A classic of American garden writing. Warner was a prominent writer in his day and a dedicated amateur gardener. Though written nearly 150 years ago the writing feels as fresh as if it was written last week. Warner shared a sense of humor with his next-door neighbor and friend, Mark Twain



My Favorite Plant: Writers and Gardeners on the Plants They Love
Edited by Jamaica Kincaid

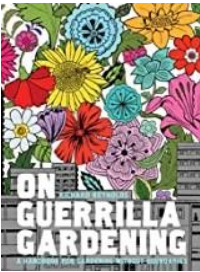
With topics as varied as Beans, Poppies and Queen-Ann's-Lace, writer's who garden tell about their favorite plant. A happy collection of fresh takes on old friends.



Elizabeth and her German Garden
by Elizabeth von Arnim

Elizabeth discovers that the path to joy lies in having a garden. This enchanting, semi-autobiographical novel delighted readers when it first appeared in 1898 and has never been out of print since.

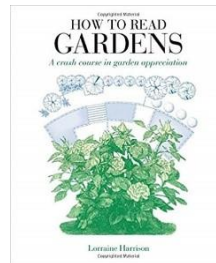
2020



On Guerrilla Gardening: A Handbook for Gardening Without Boundaries

By Richard Reynolds

The author secretly plants flowers at night outside his tower block in London and unknowingly becomes part of a growing global movement committed to combating the forces of neglect, land shortage and apathy towards public spaces. Along with the book discussion we will also go into the greenhouse and make seed bombs for your own guerrilla gardening.

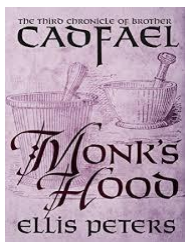


How to Read Gardens: A Crash Course in Garden Appreciation

By Lorraine Harrison

Garden visiting has never been more popular.

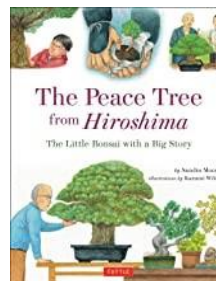
Through charming illustrations this little book provides a visual language of the garden and helps us understand what we are looking at. We will be walking through parts of the Gardens looking at garden features as part of our book discussion.



Monkhood: The Third Chronicle of Brother Cadfael

By Ellis Peters

The *Brother Cadfael Chronicles* are stories that center around Brother Cadfael, a 12th century Benedictine Monk in an English monastery and a gifted gardener and healer using medicinal plants. Brother Cadfael solves mysteries using his knowledge of plants and his keen observations of human nature.



The Peace Tree from Hiroshima: The Little Bonsai with a Big Story

By Sandra Moore and Kazumio Wilds

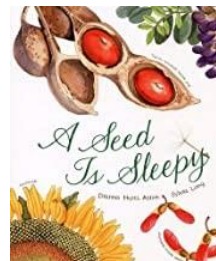
A story of a tree and its journey through four centuries and two continents.



We are the Gardeners

By Joanna Gaines and Julianna Swaney

The adventures of the author and her children starting their own family garden.

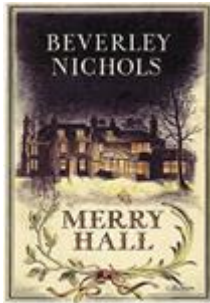


A Seed is Sleepy

By Dianna Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long

This book is a poetic and beautiful introduction to a world of seed and plant facts.

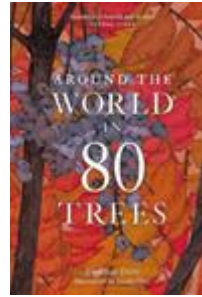
2021



Merry Hall

By Beverley Nichols - 1998
(first published 1951)

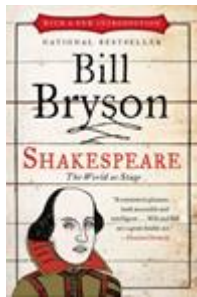
In this first volume of The Merry Hall Trilogy, it is easy to see why Nichols' account of buying a Georgian house near London and reversing the hideous landscaping, has become a gardening classic. Nichols' sharp social observations in the years after WWII and dry British humor are laugh-out-loud funny and, at times, deliciously malicious. Along the way we meet Oldfield, the talented but difficult gardener, the nosy neighbors, and his beloved cats.



Around the World in 80 Trees

By Jonathan Drori - 2018

A brilliant blend of science, history, culture, and folklore, this book has something new to learn on every page and is for casual plant lovers as well as more experienced professionals. Beautiful illustrations by French artist Lucille Clerc sometimes slip off the page and add to the enjoyment of the tree stories. We will have the book discussion in the Secret Garden and everyone who cares to can share their favorite trees, either from the book or from their life. We will visit a few special trees in Ashton Gardens.



Shakespeare: The World as Stage

by Bill Bryson - 2007

At first glance, an unusual book for a garden book club until you realize how gardens and the language of flowers were important to Shakespeare in his plays and poetry. An excellent, succinct introduction to Shakespeare, his life, and his influence. We learn that Shakespeare had a countryside upbringing in Stratford-on-Avon in the country of Warwickshire, England and often employed imagery that reflected a sixteenth-century rural background. A couplet from Shakespeare's comedy Cymbeline- "Golden lads and girls all must, / As chimney sweepers, come to dust," takes on additional sense when one learns that in Warwickshire a flowering dandelion was called a golden lad, while one about to disperse its seeds was a chimney sweep. A simple dandelion becomes the symbol of youth, death, and the cycle of life. We will meet at the Fragrance Garden to see and smell the plants and flowers of Shakespeare that is this summer's display for Literature in the Garden.



On Flowers: Lessons from an Accidental Florist

by Amy Merrick - 2019

Amy Merrick is an artist who uses familiar flowers in a new way. In this primer she shares her hard-won knowledge: How to transform supermarket flowers into a beautiful centerpiece or elevating wild and weedy blooms foraged from city sidewalks. Her approach is full of positive energy and she uses the beauty that is all around us waiting to be discovered. The book is very visual but has a lot of valuable information about how to have cut flowers in your life and relationships without spending a lot. A charming book full of little surprises. The book discussion will be followed by gathering things from the Cutting Garden so participants can make their own country bouquet. Bring your own container for the bouquet you will take home.

2022

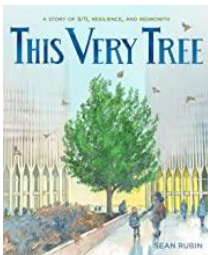


Flower Flash

Lewis Miller (2021)

Lewis Miller creates spontaneous acts of flower kindness on the streets of

New York City. In early morning hours, so no one can watch him working, Miller creates a second life for recycled flowers and flowers too old to sell. He loves that people will turn the corner and smile and isn't bothered that the flowers get picked apart and an hour later can be gone. During the first year of COVID his "flower flashes" in front of hospitals led to a write-up in a medical journal of the positive effect of flowers on health. This is a beautiful book of beautiful photos of beautiful flowers. We will discuss the book and together create a 'flower flash' for the garden guests visiting the Tulip Festival.



This Very Tree: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowth

Sean Rubin (2021)

A story from the point-of-view of the Callery pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*) planted in the 1970s at the newly completed Twin Towers in New York City. On September 11, 2001, the tree's home was destroyed, and the tree was buried under rubble. A month later a shocking discovery was made at Ground Zero: the tree had survived. The "survivor tree" was moved to the Bronx to recover and nearly ten years later it was replanted in the 9/11 Memorial to provide beauty, comfort, and hope.



Unearthing The Secret Garden The Plants & Places That Inspire Frances Hodgson Burnett

Marta McDowell (2021)

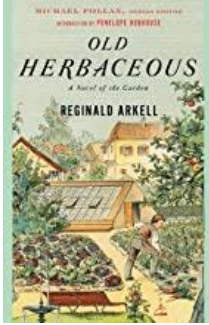
We will meet in the Secret Garden for a tea party to discuss this recent book inspired by the life and gardens of the beloved author of *The Secret Garden*. A fascinating account, complemented with period photographs and illustrations, reminds us why *The Secret Garden* continues to touch readers after more than a century. Feel free to also bring any books or any other iterations of *The Secret Garden* that you would like to share—there are so many.



When Plants Took Over the Planet The Amazing Stories of Plant Evolution

Chris Thorogood & Amy Grimes (2021)

This highly illustrated book tells the story of plant life on Earth, from plants munched on by dinosaurs to the flowering plants that we rely on for the survival of our botanical web of life. We will visit the Dinosaurs in the Gardens exhibit and a garden that displays the beauty and variety of the Angiosperms, or flowering plants, on our planet.



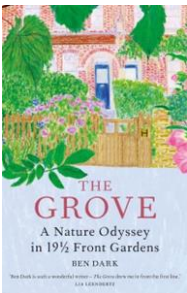
Old Herbaceous

Reginald Arkell (1951)

We will wind down the season with a classic English novel that has been a favorite of gardeners and readers for the past 70 years. Pottering amongst the seeds and cuttings at the back of his

ramshackle greenhouse in the garden of a manor house is Herbert Pinnegar. Now in his twilight years, he's full of memories and tales of a bygone era. He recounts his journey from shy orphan boy to legendary head gardener 'Old Herbaceous' and tells of his friendship with the lady of the house, Mrs. Charteris. A witty comic portrait of a charming, cantankerous, kind, and stubborn old gardener. A romantic tale of the last gasp of the Victorian landed gentry and the staff that served them. A little like Downton Abby with gardening tips.

2023



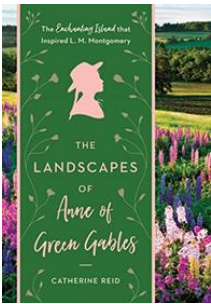
The Grove: A Nature Odyssey in 19 ½ Front Gardens

By Ben Dark 2022

With his infant son in his pram, Ben Dark walks his road in suburban London over the course of four seasons and shares his lyrical musings on the “mundane” plants of his neighbor’s gardens. A stroll can

become an odyssey when we connect with the plants around us. Each tree or flower tells a tale of war and poetry, money and fashion, love and failure. There are things here that could be found in any neighborhood in any town.

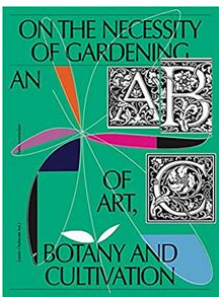
The author finds joy and interest in the ordinary and his tales will have gardeners seeing their surrounding with fresh eyes.



The Landscapes of Anne of Green Gables: The Enchanting Island that Inspired L. M. Montgomery
by Catherine Reid 2018

The Landscapes of Anne of Green Gables explores L. M. Montgomery's deep connection to the landscapes of Prince Edward Island which inspired her to write the beloved Anne of Green Gables series. From the Lake of Shining Waters and the Haunted Wood to Lover's Lane, you'll be immersed in the real places immortalized in the novels. Includes contemporary and historical photographs as well as findings from Montgomery's journals, archives, and scrapbooks.

One of *Smithsonian's* Best Travel Books of 2018.



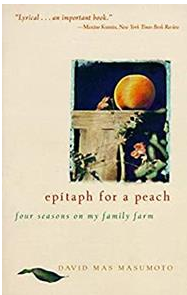
On the Necessity of Gardening: An ABC of Art, Botany and Cultivation
By Laurie Cluitmans 2021

Selected as one of the Best Dutch Book Designs 2021, the large scrapbook

format tells the story of the garden as an abiding metaphor for society and culture.

Through essays and illustrations, organized as an inventive abecedarium (ABCs), it touches on subjects from Anthropocene, Arcadia, Bouquet, and Compost, to Versailles, Vibrant Matter, and Zen Gardens.

Reads like the encyclopedias we used to browse as kids, when you skipped around and read what you wanted.



Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm

By David Mas Masumoto
1995

Epitaph for a Peach follows Masumoto's year-long attempt to keep his Suncrest

peach trees alive and to farm in a new way; working with, not against nature. It seems clear from the start that this year will decide his fate and the fate of his family farm. This is the first of Masumoto's several memoirs written with quiet eloquence about his farm in California. Masumoto is a founding member of the California Association of Family Farmers and his organic farming techniques have been employed by farmers across the nation.

A lovingly rendered account of saving the most luscious peaches grown in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

