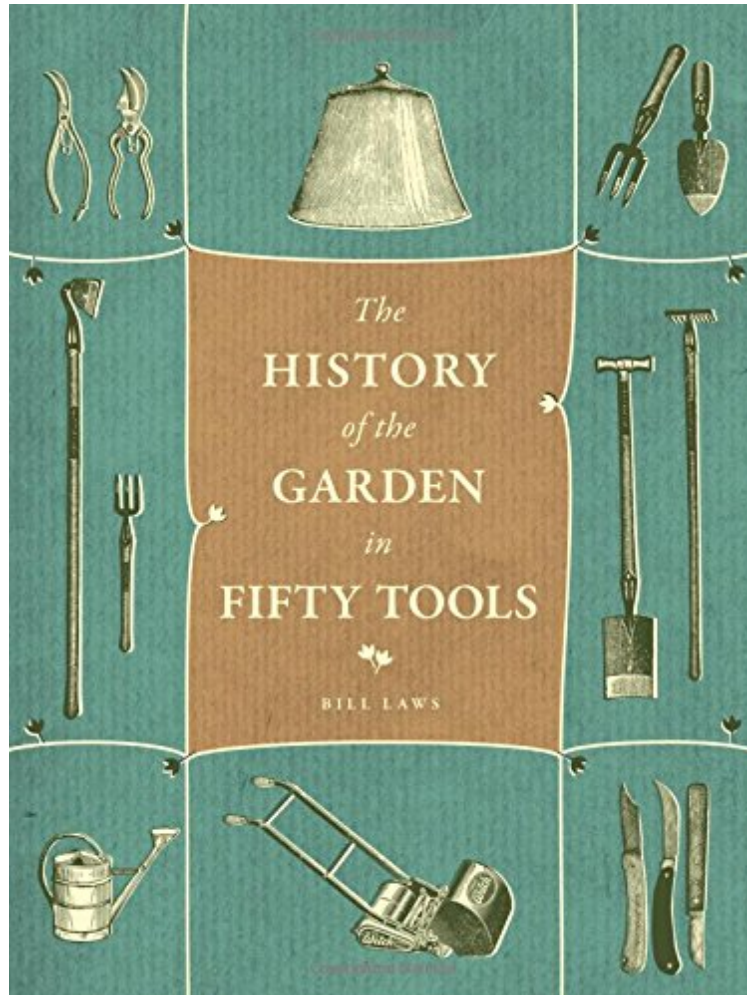


## A History of the Garden in Fifty Tools

Bill Laws

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**Bill Laws : A History of the Garden in Fifty Tools** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of the Garden in Fifty Tools:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fun % interesting reference book!By LynnieThis is a VERY interesting book describing the history and uses for old garden tools. I bought this book as a gift for an older friend (late 60's) and she LOVED it! I would recommend this book to anyone interested in back yard gardening!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A fun and informative bookBy Carol J. MichelA fun and informative book for anyone who loves gardening and gardening tools, especially. Well-researched. I need a few more tools after reading this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good bedside book for the garden obsessed!By Nancy Ravise-NoelVery interesting book on how garden implements evolved. Arrived within the time frame and in great shape, as promised. Thanks.

A green thumb is not the only tool one needs to garden well at least that's what the makers of gardening catalogs and the designers of the dizzying aisle displays in lawn- and-garden stores would have us believe. Need to plant a bulb, aerate some soil, or keep out a hungry critter? Well, there's a specific tool for almost everything. But this isn't just a product of today's consumer era, since the very earliest gardens, people have been developing tools to make planting and harvesting more efficient and to make flora more beautiful and trees more fruitful. In *A History of the Garden in Fifty Tools*, Bill Laws offers entertaining and colorful anecdotes of implements that have shaped our gardening experience since the beginning. As Laws reveals, gardening tools have coevolved with human society, and the story of these fifty individual tools presents an innovative history of humans and the garden over time. Laws takes us back to the Neolithic age, when the microlith, the first all-in-one tool was invented. Consisting of a small sharp stone blade that was set into a handle made of wood, bone, or antler, it was a small spade that could be used to dig, clip, and cut plant material. We find out that wheelbarrows originated in China in the second century BC, and their basic form has not changed much since. He also describes how early images of a pruning knife appear in Roman art, in the form of a scythe that could cut through herbs, vegetables, fruits, and nuts and was believed to be able to tell the gardener when and what to harvest. Organized into five thematic chapters relating to different types of gardens: the flower garden, the kitchen garden, the orchard, the lawn, and ornamental gardens, the book includes a mix of horticulture and history, in addition to stories featuring well-known characters we learn about Henry David Thoreau's favorite hoe, for example. *A History of the Garden in Fifty Tools* will be a beautiful gift for any home gardener and a reassuring reminder that gardeners have always struggled with the same quandaries.

Laws examines the history and cultural bearing of everything from a cloche to a lawn mower, and he understands that gardeners form deep attachments to the tools they use.