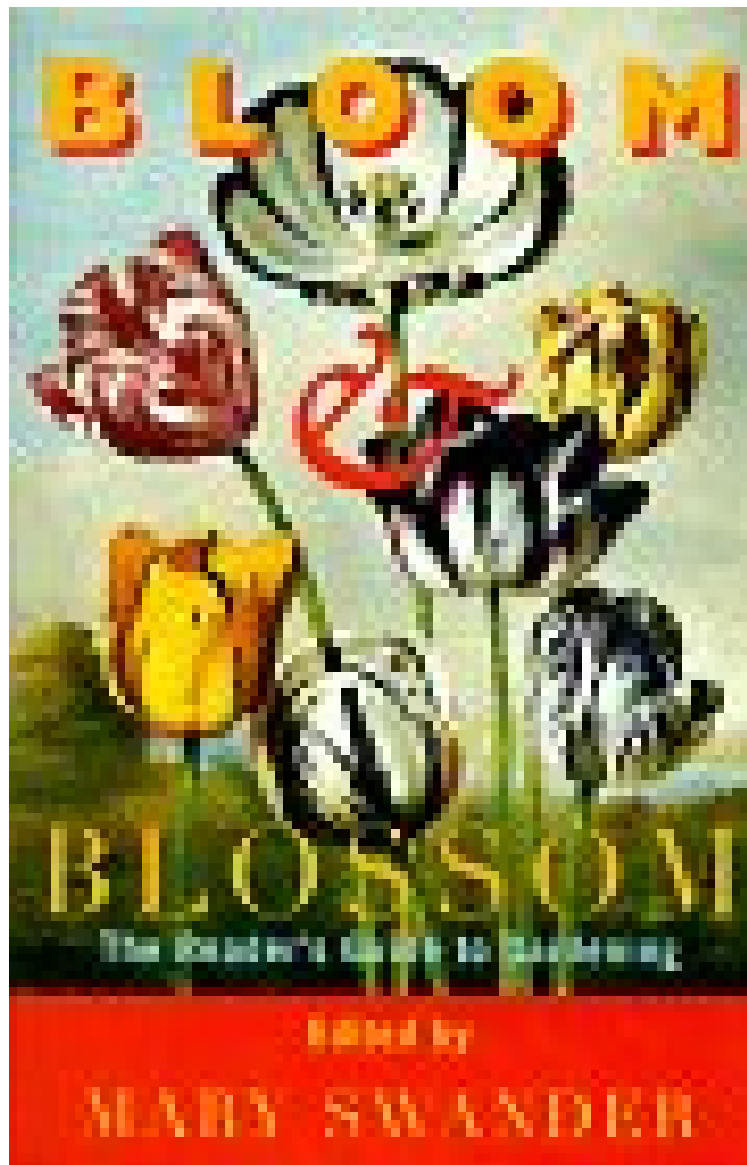


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Bloom Blossom: The Reader's Guide to Gardening

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Book by

From Library Journal One of the things gardeners like best to do, when they can't actually go and dig in the dirt, is to read about how other gardeners feel about gardening. Gathered by a poet, scholar, and gardener, this collection of writings satisfies that urge with a medley of essays, poetry, and fiction largely by 20th-century writers but leavened with a few historical offerings. The four sections each have a theme: the connection between garden and family, seeds, the garden in the natural world, and the garden in history and society. The selections themselves range from Jane Smiley's tale of a family who have gone "back to the land," to a historical piece on Soviet scientists who starved in the siege of Stalingrad rather than eat the seeds they were trusted to guard, to Catherine Sneed on her work with prisoners and gardens. Readers won't learn any techniques in this volume but will find an affirmation of the emotional benefits of working the soil. For collections where gardening essays are popular. ?Molly Newling, Piscataway P.L., N.J. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist When the weather turns cold and uninviting and keeps gardeners indoors, one can ponder the countless ways that tending a garden uplifts our spirits by turning to a provocative collection of fine writing. Swander's compilation contains a few historical excerpts together with nourishing, heaping helpings of contemporary thought culled from an abundance of recent garden literature. Many highly respected writers that have already won the hearts and minds of garden lovers are included--Michael Pollan, Eleanor Perenyi, Roger Swain, and Alan Lacy, among others. With poems sprinkled throughout, the essays and passages touch on topics both poignant and serious, such as the state of farming today and various views on our interdependence with the natural world. Alice Joyce Bloom Blossom: The Reader's Guide To Gardening is an invigorating gathering of fiction, poetry, and essays that reveals the powerful appeal of one of America's most enduring passions. Poet, scholar, and gardener Mary Swander juxtaposes excerpts from early American settlers with 19th century classics and the work of prominent 20th century writers to offer new perspectives on the seductive pleasure of coaxing flowers, fruits, and vegetables from the earth. Bloom Blossom delves into the emotional, social, and ecological implications of our passion for nurturing the fruits of the earth. Bloom Blossom is a highly recommended attention to any gardening bookshelf! -- Midwest Book What Goes Wrong by Julia Alvarez Daisies by Louise Gluck An Insider's View Of The Garden by Maxine W. Kumin Touch Me by Stanley Jasspon Kunitz Lapsed Meadow by Stanley Plumly Tomato by Katha Pollit Did I Say by Gerald Stern -- Table of Poems from Poem Finder