



Practical Gardener: A Guide to Breaking New Ground

Roger B. Swain

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Faced with the challenge of a first vegetable garden, weeds in the lawn, or an unpruned grapevine, the beginning gardener needs both practical information and the wisdom that comes from experience. In this abundantly useful volume, well-known horticulturist Roger B. Swain draws on his years as a gardener and science editor and provides readers with a fresh plan of attack. THE PRACTICAL GARDENER contains much of the spirit and substance of Roger's monthly column in HORTICULTURE Magazine. From the first plunge of the spading fork in spring to the last raking of leaves in the fall, the chapters guide the novice in an astute and entertaining fashion through all the uncertainties of caring for fruits and vegetables, flowers and grass. Learn to calculate how many hours of sunlight a garden plot will get at any time of the year, how to keep racoons out of sweet corn, and how to make almost effortless compost. With wit and understanding and the solid backing of technical expertise, Roger shows us how to separate fantasy from reality in seed catalogs. He watches over us as we sow seeds, and thin and transplant the resulting seedlings. Here is the truth about soil fertility and pH, about when to water and weed and how best to wage war against pests. Fresh herbs, strawberries, tulips, and maple syrup--these are the delights in store for readers. Not to mention a collection of do-it-yourself construction projects--from a cold frame to a garden bench--that can be built as gifts to yourself or other gardeners. Novices and experienced gardeners alike will welcome this volume as a practical tool and an irrepressible appreciation of the craft.

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