

A Way to Garden: A Hands-On Primer for Every Season

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The garden editor and writer for Martha Stewart Living presents a richly illustrated gardening book that offers practical advice as well as an exploration of the underlying connections between the yearly cycles of gardening and the stages of life.

Margaret Roach, garden editor for Martha Stewart Living magazine, has produced a particularly appealing addition to the philosophical genre of gardening books. Roach takes a holistic view of the garden: "Neither my garden books nor my garden is the stuff that art is made of, a fact for which I am only partly apologetic. My garden is where I can be myself--perhaps the only place besides the pay-by-the-hour couch that invites me to be so, in fact."

The book's basic conceit--that a year in the garden parallels the six seasons of life: conception, birth, youth, adulthood, senescence, and death/afterlife--makes for interesting reading, and the practical aspect is aided by a good index at the end. Fortunately, the text, while personal and charming, doesn't descend too far into leafy navel-gazing; Roach can be quite hard-headed and instructive on the matter of caning raspberries, making a garden pond, dividing irises, growing your own salad greens. Gardeners who have plenty of room and a bit of puttering time themselves will delight in Roach's relaxed approach. --
Barrie Trinkle

Other Books

Gardener's Chronicle of America.

ⓧ ⓧ ⓧ ⓧ ⓧ . T this season when outdoor activities are practically limited to the clearing away of snow and shaking heavy falls from Evergreens , the pruning ... Garden Primer " should be in the hands all who have or contemplate having a ro garden ."