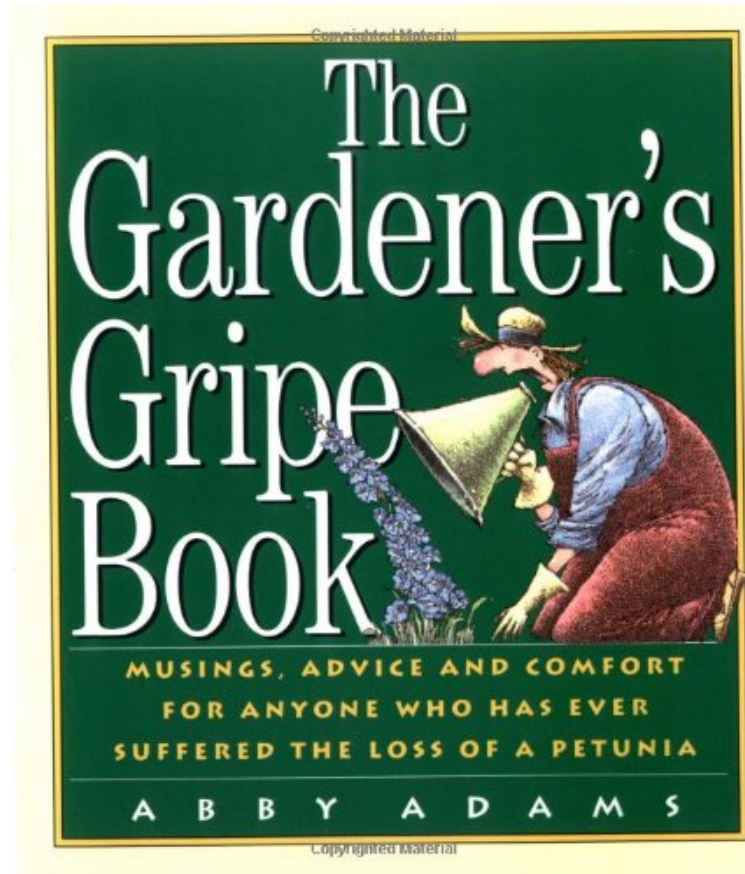


(Read now) The Gardener's Gripe Book

The Gardener's Gripe Book

Abby Adams

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Abby Adams : The Gardener's Gripe Book before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gardener's Gripe Book:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Troubles With Trowels and Other Gardening TalesBy OwlIn "The Gardener's Gripe Book" Abby Adams takes us through a gardener's year, the stages of developing a garden from weed patch to veggie abundance, and such charming topics as "Tree\$". Seventeen chapters and about 240 deckle-edged, heavy paper pages are provided in this well-produced 1995 book.Her writing is light-hearted, but she knows her soils, her weevils, her seeds, weeds, and gardener's deeds. Topics include,"Micro-gardening," "Smell," "Epiphanies in the Herbaceous Border," "Consider the Onion," and an "Enemies List."Her gripes are a mixed bag. Some are just part of gardening: heat, cold, rain, drought, winds, a plague of locusts. About these gardeners can do little else than work with bell, book, and candle on curses, exhortations, and incantations. Some gripes come from inexperience: one learns from experience to plant lettuces early in successive seedings to avoid a glut that has the gardener pushing salad on the unwary and learns also to pluck the zucchini while 'tis in its' tender youth.Some of Adams' gripes derive from over-ambition: sow a quarter acre of garden one also can have a life. Plow two acres and unless one has access to a lotta skilled assistance, you're in for it all through the spring, summer, and fall.For these

gripes and other sources of blood, sweat, and tears, Adams has wry comments, amusing observations, and nuggets of advice. Inexperienced gardeners may find the book useful charming, particularly with the admirable Jeff Seaver's delightful illustrations that match the writing like tomatoes and basil. More experienced gardeners may find "The Gardener's Gripe" book a light quick read, yet turn more to Katharine White's classic essays on seed catalogs, Henry Mitchell's splendid books, Eleanor Perenyi and the noble Vita Sackville-West. Abby Adams (to whom laud honor) offers a fine further-readings list of 46 books including Jane Austen, van Gogh, and White. Readers might yearn to share a bottle of good vino with gardening writer whose personal readings are so diverse! "The Gardener's Gripe Book" does not aspire to be nor is it a heavy-hitter, encyclopedic new classic. At used book prices, however, this a worthy value that can be an affordable treat; my copy which arrived in fine condition cost only a few cents. Most gardeners will recognize and chuckle at the troubles and triumphs that can be associated with trowels, tribbles, and dibbles. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The author is a funny lady! By Jody I am enjoying this book. She explains her transition from houseplants in a city apartment to a country property of several acres. Definitely a big learning curve. I can relate to a lot of her experiences, even on my suburban plot. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gift for sister. By Pat Fogarty Visiting my sister in October and she love's gardening. This book will be a nice early birthday gift for her. Great price and fast delivery.

Perennials that behave like annuals, gone within a year or two. Lettuce that bolts right when you're in the mood for a salad. Deer, hedgehogs, slugs, and bugs. And then, all the know-it-alls who tell you how easy it is. Gardening may be America's most popular leisure activity, but it is also the most frustrating, aggravating, and time-consuming-by no means the simple idyll-with-dirt sold by gardening gurus. As lifelong gardener Abby Adams points out in her tongue-in-cheek book, you can't trust the experts, nothing looks like it does in magazines and catalogs, trends change more often than hemlines, and Mother Nature always wins. Literate, funny, studded with quotes and ironic observations, here is a series of honest takes on dozens of subjects that all gardeners will relate to.

.com Perennials behaving like annuals, dead and gone after just one season. Neighbors' tomatoes that always come in a week earlier than yours. Fickleness, hard work and ethical dilemmas (you've live-trapped the woodchuck -- now what?). It's gardening, Abby Adams loves it, and in a book as perceptive as it is funny she shares a lifetime's obsessions with its mysterious ways. From Publishers Weekly A very funny down-to-earth gardener takes a swipe at gardening pretense and vows to "tell no lies." With Will Rogers-style good will and common sense, pet peeves grow into a belly-laugh of a book. The well-organized myriad of topics includes: a respectable and entertaining history of gardening ("From Eve to Martha Stewart"); the wrongfully maligned lawn and its environmentally-correct alternatives (e.g., meadows-in-cans-"It is better to tear your money into little pieces and scatter them to the wind"); dirt (a soil analysis by an extension agent is like an astrologer saying "you have 3 planets in your 6th house, when all you want to know is whether or not you should get married"). Equally amusing are ventings on vegetables, perennials, "tree\$" and garden enemies (don't miss the repellent recipe calling for Japanese beetles in the blender-"this is the fun part"). Longer chapters are spliced with essays such as "Gourmet Gardeners" who "clip recipes from gardening magazines (this is equivalent to gleaning medical advice from Vanity Fair)" and "Smell" ("Aromatic' herbs mostly aren't"; paperwhites and hyacinths are "olfactory offenders"). A welcome, resounding reveille for gardeners who have dwelt too long with glossy pictures and impossible expert advice. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gardening can certainly be a bittersweet endeavor, one that is certain to result in frustrating failures as well as peak moments of real accomplishment. Clearly, Adams has devoted time to pondering her own failed gardening ventures and to absorbing a valuable lesson or two when the opportunity presents itself. She adopts a rather humorous tone when providing a succinct history of gardens "From Eve to Martha Stewart." However, as Adams chronicles her own experiences in gardens she has known, the acerbic commentary on a range of topics (from dealing with garden pests to maintaining a lawn or growing healthy fruit trees) will have like-minded gardeners nodding in commiseration. Alice Joyce