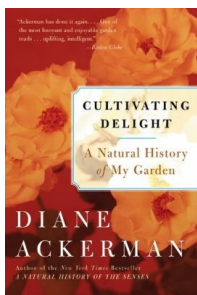


Gardening Vicariously

Each year when spring comes around and I start looking for those little green shoots poking up in my garden (is that a flower or a weed?) I have an urge to read books about gardens. Not having a green thumb myself, I become an interloper in other people's gardens. Here are some of my favorites.



Cultivating Delight: a natural history of my garden, by Diane Ackerman

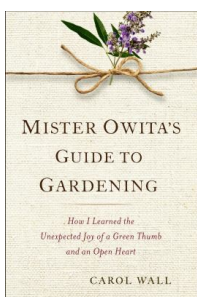
[Book](#)

Ackerman is a naturalist and a poet, and her prose beautifully meander from biology to mythology as she reflects on her extensive garden in Ithaca, New York. A beautiful book.

Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening: How I learned the unexpected joy of a green thumb and an open heart, by Carol Wall

[Book](#), [Large Print](#), [Overdrive audiobook](#)

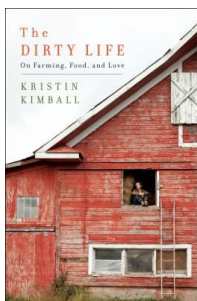
In this moving memoir, Wall's garden blossoms and thrives as her heart heals and her soul expands under the kindness and unexpected expertise of a stranger who becomes a friend.



The Dirty Life: A memoir of Farming, Food, and Love, by Kristin Kimball

[Book](#), [CD audiobook](#), [Overdrive ebook](#), [Overdrive audiobook](#)

"This book is the story of the two love affairs that interrupted the trajectory of my life: one with farming—that dirty, concupiscent art—and the other with a complicated and exasperating farmer." Kristin Kimball



Paths of Desire: The passions of a suburban gardener, by Dominique Browning

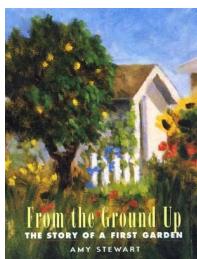
[Book](#)

Serious garden envy here. With warmth and wit, Browning describes the restoration and expansion of the neglected plantings in her small, decades-old Westchester property. She experiences the frustrations and joys of enlisting the expertise of various interesting plant people as they trim beloved old trees, plant masses of azaleas, and create pathways through her small paradise.

From the Ground Up: The story of a first garden, by Amy Stewart

[Book](#), [Overdrive ebook](#)

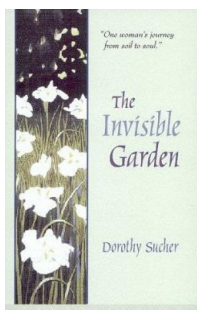
A true neophyte, Stewart wants a garden in her newly purchased seaside cottage. She humorously describes her successes and failures in transforming her small plot into her dream garden.



Farm City: The education of an Urban Farmer, by Novella Carpenter

[Book](#), [CD audibook](#), [Overdrive ebook](#), [Overdrive audibook](#)

A garden in the city? Carpenter lives in a small apartment in a run down and sometimes dangerous neighborhood near Oakland. She humorously chronicles her determination to grown and provide healthy food in a very unlikely place.



The Invisible Garden, by Dorothy Sucher

[Book](#)

Sucher was a New York psychotherapist, journalist, and artist who fell in love with a blue house by a stream in Vermont. These lovely essays describe how she transformed her land and her appreciation of the rural beauty with the help of her wise and stoic Vermont neighbors.