

## What makes a good gardening book?

Gardening is a hobby that is shared by many throughout the world. Many individuals have come together and formed friendships and networks over their love of gardening, and their share hints and tips over online blogs, emails, letter and coffee!

Any gardener you meet will talk about the importance of gardening books – the need to have a resource of information that is gardening specific to tap into as you either start gardening or as you develop your gardening knowledge, skills and abilities is hugely important, and a gardening book is one of the best ways to access this information.

So, what makes a garden book a decent read? What is it that draws people to a particular resource book on gardening or makes a book on gardening successful? If you are an aspiring writer, and want to write a book on gardening that will sell, what sort of things should you include?

Well, below are some handy tips to get you started! According to a cross section of gardeners from across the globe, here's what will make your gardening book stand out from the crowd...

- Make sure it's a practical, resource book. Huge amounts of 'flowery' language and big sections of descriptive language are not as appropriate as you might think for this type of book. Stick to being focused on handy tips and hints, keep to shorter sentences that are split into sections or bullet points.
- Think about including different types of hints and tips in the book; ideas on how to plant in a thrifty way, how to successfully propagate, how to incorporate your plants or crops into cooking, etc.
- Don't always focus on expensive plants or shrubs when you are presenting gardening ideas to your readers; make sure you cover a whole range of tastes, styles and budgets to make your book as accessible to as wide an audience as possible.
- Don't just focus on plants and shrubs...also think about the different elements of landscaping; how things work well together, and when less is more. Take into consideration different types of gardening environments too, such as dry or wet environments, or gardens with poor or clay-like soil.
- Spend some time ensuring the book looks good. Photos are key and they have to be inspirational and achievable. But it's also important to think about perspective; sometimes you want a photo that shows the full effect of a bed or border and at other times you need a photo that highlights the close up colours of one or two particular plants.
- Ensure your book is easy for readers to navigate their way through. Split it into sections; garden activity, plant type or season.

- And finally, make the book useable in the garden. Have sections for readers to record their notes, store seeds or plant information, and if possible make it water proof so it can be used in all weather conditions.

Happy writing!