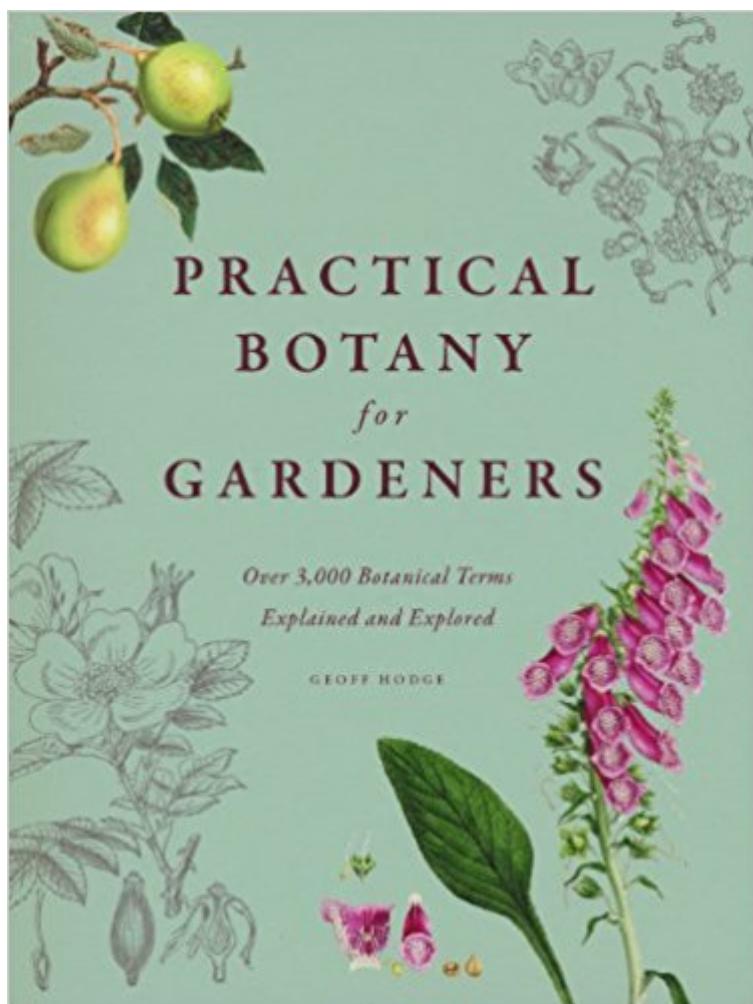


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# Practical Botany For Gardeners: Over 3,000 Botanical Terms Explained And Explored



## Synopsis

Gardening can be frustratingly shrouded in secrecy. Fickle plants make seemingly spontaneous decisions to bloom or bust, seeds sprout magically in the blink of an eye, and deep-rooted mysteries unfold underground and out of sight. Understanding basic botany is like unlocking a horticultural code; fortunately learning a little science can reveal the secrets of the botanical universe and shed some light on what's really going on in your garden. *Practical Botany for Gardeners* provides an elegant and accessible introduction to the world of botany. It presents the essentials that every gardener needs to know, connecting explanations of scientific facts with useful gardening tips. Flip to the roots section and you'll not only learn how different types of roots support a plant but also find that adding fungi to soil aids growth. The pruning section both defines "lateral buds" and explains how far back on a shoot to cut in order to propagate them. The book breaks down key areas and terminology with easy-to-navigate chapters arranged by theme, such as plant types, plant parts, inner workings, and external factors. "Great Botanists" and "Botany in Action" boxes delve deeper into the fascinating byways of plant science. This multifaceted book also includes two hundred botanical illustrations and basic diagrams that hearken to the classic roots of botany. Part handbook, part reference, *Practical Botany for Gardeners* is a beautifully captivating read. It's a must for garden lovers and backyard botanists who want to grow and nurture their own plant knowledge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For anyone who has been horrified by the lopsided life that remains after a bout of pruning, gardening writer Geoff Hodge has some gentle advice: Pruning is both an art and a science. You'll be better equipped to take on the challenge after reading the chapter on pruning in *Practical Botany for Gardeners*. . . . Botanical illustrations on almost every page add a decorative touch, and profiles of botanical artists pay tribute to those who make plants come alive on the page." (Boston Globe)"A gentle guide to the green world . . . organized precisely how a nonbotanist would need it done. Chapters introduce the plant kingdom and how botanists classify it; tackle growth, form and function; and take you inside a plant to understand how its cells, nutrition and hormones actually function. Others explore reproduction, soil, pests and disorders. . . It's a beautiful book." (Denver Post)

Geoff Hodge is a gardening and horticultural writer living in Peterborough, UK, and the former gardening editor for *Gardening News*. His most recent books include *The RHS Allotment Handbook*, *RHS Propagation Techniques*, and *RHS Pruning and Training*.

This is a book that fills in the gaps. One can be an avid gardener and not really have any training in relevant scientific subjects, such as botany. Reading this book will not completely solve that problem. However, it is a step in the right direction. Having taken a botany course as an undergraduate, and being an avid gardener, I find this book to be highly useful in bridging gaps in my own knowledge. The material is approachable, so one does not really need a formal background in biology or plant science to benefit from reading it.

The appearance of this book is very similar to "Latin for Gardeners: Over 3,000 Plant Names Explained and Explored" Lorraine Harrison which was also published by the University Of Chicago Press. Just like the other book, this one has beautiful pictures of plants and depicts their stems, leaves and flowers in most of the pictures. I use this and the other book as a reference for drawing plants so this is a very helpful book for me. As for the actual information in this book, it is quite useful. It talks about subjects such as soil pH, organic matter, plant breeding and plant hormones. It also tells you why your plant might not be growing as well as you think it should and how to fix those problems. This is a great book for the gardener and the artist.

A beautifully illustrated, captioned and researched book that thoroughly covers every aspect of plant physiology, history and behavior that a gardener could wish to know. Engaging and easy reading

format. Supplemented with notable figures in plant research and relevant trivia such as types of seed banks in the seeds chapter. Recommended for those who want to know plants in greater detail without poring through a thick academic textbook.

I have purchased several "botany for gardeners" books, and this is by far the best. It's loaded with useful info, and other interesting connect-the-dots info (of things you have seen in the garden, and wondered why the plants behaved that way). I was very pleasantly surprised how much I enjoyed reading this book!

Delightful book. Interesting content and beautiful illustrations. My gardener / artist wife is doubly pleased by the gift.

Such a beautiful, helpful book! Really enjoying it.

This is a great help in understanding many things I have not really understood. I'm no botanist by any means but this book gives clear direction in pruning, insects, diseases etc. Being able to reference this book and say NOW I finally feel ok about what I need to do. I have so much underlined and pages marked I can refresh my mind real fast. I think it's the best book for gardening that I have. It's well worth buying and the illustration is great.

Great overview for basic botany. The images are great too.

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