



# gardener's book nook Marty Figley

"The Spirit of Gardening," by Jeff Cox (Rodale, \$16.95 hardcover), is the ideal book to take along on vacation to be savored in a restful manner. The subtitle, "Reflections on the True Joys of Gardening," is aptly chosen. The author describes 51 plants in his own garden, the way they perform and how they relate to life.

This correlation between people and plants is an interesting way of expressing insights into these growing things. "I've learned much from plants that I feel is applicable to my inner life," Cox says. "These little enlargements of awareness have thrilled me. I get enthused and excited by my discoveries; this book is the result."

Gardeners and non-gardeners alike will find something here. With only two to three pages devoted to each plant, it can be an inspirational pick-up to enjoy whenever the reader has a few quiet moments.

**SIMON AND SCHUSTER'S** "Guide to Shrubs, Vines and Other Small Ornamentals" (\$11.95 paper) is easy to carry and describes 160 varieties of such plants. The key symbols indicating specific requirements of each plant are of great help — sunlight, spacing, watering and pest and disease control are a few. A chart indicating which month a plant flowers or bears fruit (and the color) is a bonus.

The introduction is a mini-course in gardening and well worth the time it takes to read.

"Through direct contact with the earth the gardener can learn more about nature, the weather and biological cycles of plants... eventually able to experiment with growing different types of plant."

The color photos are clear and

well done. This is one in a new series of small books.

RODALE HAS several new books that will be excellent guides for the serious gardener. One of these is "The Encyclopedia of Natural Insect & Disease Control," edited by Roger B. Yepsen Jr. (\$24.95 hardcover).

This is just the ticket for those who wish to protect flowers, fruit, lawns, trees and vegetables by using preventive measures such as companion planting, non-toxic repellents and traps. The gardener is encouraged and shown how to use nature's way to help maintain a healthy environment in the landscape.

The index is invaluable, as are the line drawings and color photographs of insects. The life histories of diseases and insects help explain why and when preventive measures can be used for pest control. Anything you ever wanted to know about insects and diseases is here.

"Rodale's Garden Problem Solver," by Jeff Ball (\$21.95, hardcover), is just that. Rodale gardeners have been gardening and keeping records for many years. All the problems that the home gardener may find are all included in this book — as well as how to stop them before they become overwhelming.

In Part 1 the plants are listed in alphabetical order for quick and easy reference, under subtitles of Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs. Growing, care and harvesting information is included, for instance, eight pages are devoted to the tomato. Part 2 covers pests and diseases, and Part 3, garden management, including compost, fertilizing, soil and transplanting. A nice addition to a garden library.

ONE MORE Rodale book for this time: "Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs" (\$24.95 hardcover)

gets high marks from this reviewer. More than 150 herbs are described with all necessary information included for growing and using them. A short history of each makes interesting reading. Did you know that mistletoe berries, when dropped by birds, adhere to the bark of trees and eventually root directly to the tree? Culinary tips, craft ideas and design suggestions are interspersed throughout. It may be awhile before

another herb book of this scope comes along.

A new book, "The Creative Guide to Dried Flowers," published by Webb & Bower and distributed by Viking, (\$24.95, hardcover), was released in March. It is a comprehensive guide to collecting and arranging dried flowers. The photographs are descriptive, as is the text.

I like the practical way the author describes the "how-to's" and the

chapters dealing with specific decorations for weddings and other special occasions. The glossary of flowers is unusual

in that photographs have been taken of flowers with like colors... an excellent reference guide. Ideas abound in this book.

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