

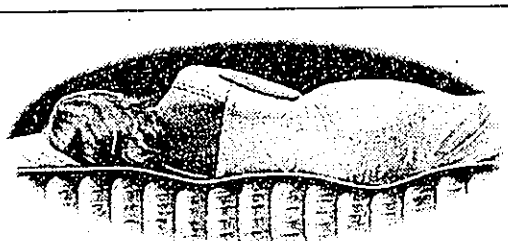
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GARDEN SPOT

New gardening books give us fresh insights



MARTY FIGLEY

Books can take us many places even as we relax in our own homes. After the first read they can be enjoyed again and again as we gain insight into other people's lives and places to visit and learn new things.

Author Tovah Martin takes us on a sojourn through "Tasha Tudor's Garden" (Houghton Mifflin, \$35) as she relates personal anecdotes about this well-loved artist and gardener.

Along the way we learn much about her secluded lifestyle and the old-fashioned flowers that she takes into her home to paint, and about the vegetables she grows and shares. We are introduced to her many animals — her corgi dogs, a pet parrot, a one-eyed cat, the Nubian goats she raises and others. This charming month-by-month visit is enhanced by the fabulous photographs

by Richard Brown. This is a book to treasure and revisit often.

More than just a how-to book, the coffee table-sized "The Book of Rhododendrons," Marianna Kneller (Timber Press, \$45), is resplendent with colorful botanical portraits of the many genera of these plants. Kneller has captured all the intricacies of each individual flower to enable one to study them in detail.

Divided into three sections, the book follows methods used by the taxonomists of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, for classifying the species. Rhododendron specialists from around the world have written the text that accompanies each drawing. A must-have for growers of these plants, it can be studied and enjoyed for many years.

"The Art of French Vegetable Gardening," Louise Jones (Artisan-Workman, \$35), illustrates that vegetable gardening can be beautiful as well as practical. It zeroes in on the potage, or kitchen garden, as Jones carefully ex-

See FIGLEY, 6D

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