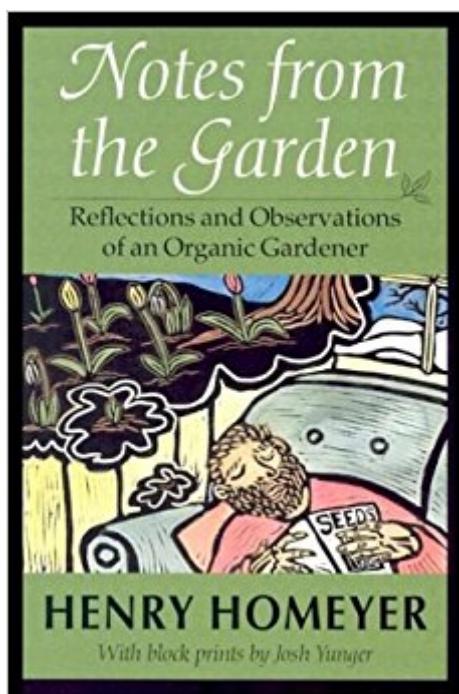


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Notes From The Garden: Reflections And Observations Of An Organic Gardener



Synopsis

Author Henry Homeyer gives a plainspoken, straightforward account of the philosophy and practices of organic gardening throughout the year. His writing is accompanied by the block prints of Josh Yunger.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With the plainspoken, straightforward manner for which New Englanders are famous, Homeyer espouses the philosophy and practices of organic gardening: no insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, or chemical fertilizers should ever make their way into the earth or onto a plant. For Homeyer, such customs reflect not only a respect for the environment but a reverence for the gardening traditions imparted to him first at his grandfather's knee and then honed through the University of New Hampshire Master Gardener programs. Starting with March and progressing through the year in monthly chapters, Homeyer culls the best of his weekly newspaper gardening columns to offer advice on everything from starting seedlings to growing garlic, all from an organic-gardening approach. Along the way, he introduces fellow organic gardeners: some locally infamous, such as 85-year-old Marguerite Tewksbury; others nationally famous, such as renowned garden author Jamaica Kincaid. Spare, succinct, and sincere, Homeyer's guidance is down-home friendly and unthreatening, warm and wise. Carol Haggas

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"There's something for nearly every gardener here....[Homeyer's] writing is clear and commonsensical and sometimes whimsical. He sounds like the guy next door."

It is a tricky thing to adapt columns written with a particular region in mind into a book with a national audience -- a special trick, perhaps, when a kind of gardening calendar is retained to organize the text. Henry Homeyer's practical "reflections and observations" may seem most germane to gardeners in New England, but if you know enough to place his experience in your own climate, you will find plenty to interest you. What I like best about this book are the pieces that transcend zones entirely, such as a report of his visit to White House gardens and his interview with Jamaica Kincaid. Discreet illustrations (block prints, a few black and white photos, and a few drawings) add to the text. And there is an excellent index, something which alas can no longer be taken for granted in gardening books. Despite my misgivings about how serviceable some of these essays are beyond New England, Henry Homeyer's plain and personal prose reminded me of the great American garden writer, Henry Mitchell. I think Mitchell would not be unhappy to find this book on a shelf alongside his own.

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