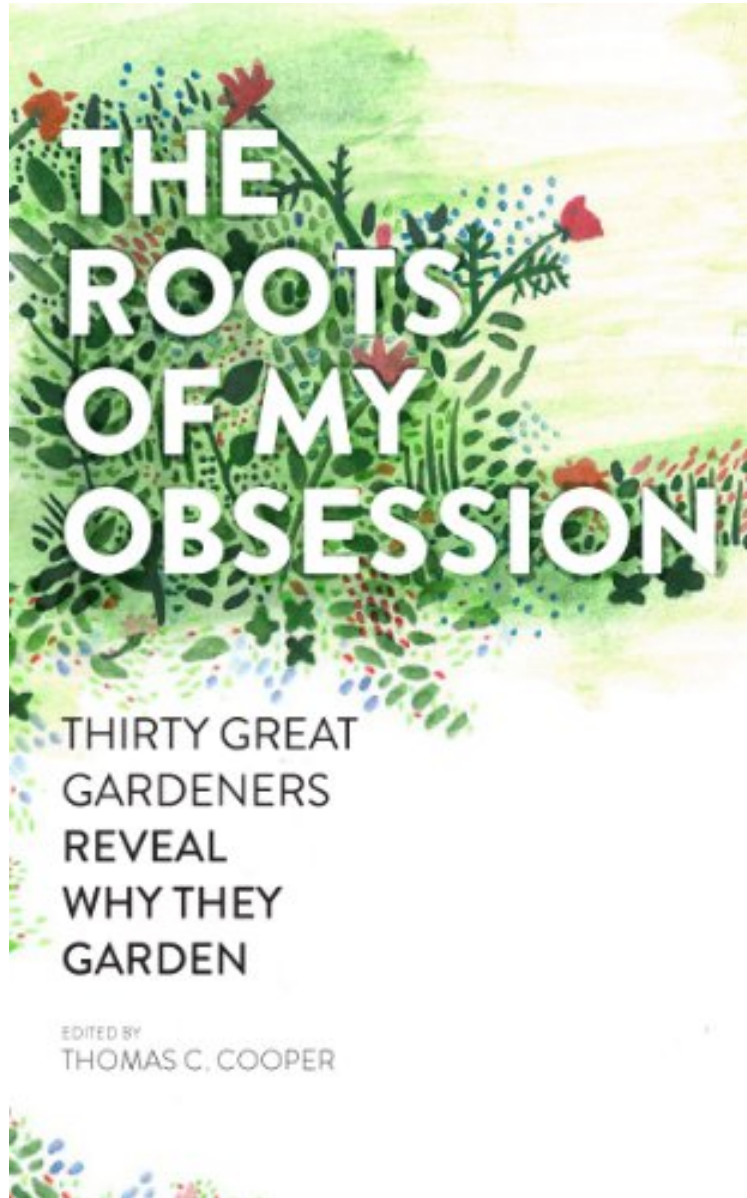


(Read and download) The Roots of My Obsession: Thirty Great Gardeners Reveal Why They Garden

# The Roots of My Obsession: Thirty Great Gardeners Reveal Why They Garden

*Thomas C. Cooper*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#560168 in Books Timber Press 2012-10-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .52 x 5.021, .45 #File Name: 1604692715164 pages | File size: 29.Mb

**Thomas C. Cooper : The Roots of My Obsession: Thirty Great Gardeners Reveal Why They Garden** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Roots of My Obsession: Thirty Great Gardeners Reveal Why They Garden:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A New Garden of Earthly Delights By Owl This charming little book offers a new vista in our gardens of earthly delights. Here Hieronymous Bosch might have painted 30 figures--well more, if he included such splendid family members as Fergus Garrett's Turkish grandmother whose flowers "were her great love and joy" or Panayoti Kelaidis's rock-garden besotted brother-in-law, Allan. "The Roots of My Obsession" began when editor Thomas C. Cooper invited some well-known garden writers to reflect on "Why do you garden?" Whatever the original number so invited may have been, he obtained brief (5 to 6 page, probably as long as requested) replies from 30 gardeners. Some are legendary figures such as the venerable Penelope Hobhouse and the greatly admired Margaret Roach. All are suitably obsessed, some to that point described by the late, great Henry Mitchell, garden writer for the Washington Post, of the understandable madness of a friend who planted hundreds of packages of seeds for a narrow city garden. Mitchell's essays are available elsewhere but the obsessions here are as he described. Every one of these 30 gardeners writes splendidly, in a unique voice, and every one of them has a fascinating story to tell. One expects such prowess with words as well as plants from the likes, say, of Amy Stewart whose "Wicked Bugs" is a gardening best seller and who has written five books and appeared on hundreds of TV and radio shows, or from Stephen Orr, editorial director for gardening of Martha Stewart Living, whose essay "The Flower Thief" may have you LOL. That is, these are professionals and it shows! Most of the writers interpreted "Why do you garden?" as "How did you get so involved to begin with?"--that is, the origins of their vegetable love. Others interpreted the question as "Why do you NOW carry on with such intensive, passionate gardening?" This gives us a happy dialog of past and present, perhaps a *felix culpa* that the editor wisely let stand. None-the-less, all the essays live up to the book's title, the ROOTS of their obsession. Among the joys of this book that will while away some happy hours when the readers can not be out in their own gardens are--meeting with a surprising intimacy so many different gardeners compared to a book by a single author--this is about GARDENS not farms not forests but gardens--having a common starting place gives a coherence beyond the pleasant but quite different effect of excerpts from the published writings of various gardeners--the intelligence of the editing and sequencing of the essays--the space blessedly is taken up by the stories rather than a few paragraphs between photos although picture books of splendid gardens have their joys too--while in no way a how-to book, there are fruits blossoms of useful insights and advice in every essay.--the excellent value, an affordable gift to yourself and to your gardening friends. Among the garden of books about "How do you garden," what delight to have one about the "Whys" of their obsessions in which we gardeners may recognize the roots of some of our own. I just ordered four more copies for friends.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved it a lot- my largest complaint is that it's too short! By K. Ostrovska I just started gardening two years ago and wanted to read about other people's experiences to understand my obsession more. This book was really great for that. It made it easier for me to understand why and I found great friends in these people who i could relate to so much. I really recommend this book to any gardener and lover of plants.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An inspiration for all obsessed gardeners! By Carolyn Longwater I haven't finished the book but am enjoying savoring a story or two at a time when I'm looking for a little inspiration for my own gardening obsession. The book is filled with the stories of lots of passionate gardeners, some I'm familiar with and some I'm not, and it's wonderful to read about how they got started on their paths. An underlying theme seems to be that great gardeners are born that way. It is an obsession that one just cannot walk away from for long. This is one of those books that I'll go back to many times.

Why do you garden? For fun? Work? Food? The reasons to garden are as unique as the gardener. The Roots of My Obsession features thirty essays from the most vital voices in gardening, exploring the myriad motives and impulses that cause a person to become a gardener. For some, it's the quest to achieve a personal vision of ultimate beauty; for others, it's a mission to heal the earth, or to grow a perfect peach. The essays are as distinct as their authors, and yet each one is direct, engaging, and from the heart. For Doug Tallamy, a love of plants is rooted first in a love of animals: animals with two legs (birds), four legs (box turtles, salamanders, and foxes), six legs (butterflies and beetles), eight legs (spiders), dozens of legs (centipedes), hundreds of legs (millipedes), and even animals with no legs (snakes and pollywogs). For Rosalind Creasy, it's not the plant itself; it's how you use it in the garden. And for Sydney Eddison, the reason has changed throughout the years. Now, she gardens for the moment. As you read, you may find yourself nodding your head in agreement, or gasping in disbelief. What you're sure to encounter is some of the best writing about the gardeners' soul ever to appear. For anyone who cherishes the miracle of bringing forth life from the soil, The Roots of My Obsession is essential inspiration.

In revealing, deeply personal and highly reflective essays, the joys, challenges, and rewards of gardens are limned by the finest hands in the field. Booklist This charming, simple book makes a great gift for gardening friends, who can curl up with it on a rainy day and reflect on their own obsession. Publishers Weekly After finishing the book, you may even feel a bit better about your own all-consuming horticulture hobby. Country Living This is a wonderful book because you can leave it by your bed and open it to any short essay and find yourself relating, laughing, or learning. Winston-Salem Journal A visual feast of inspiration combined with practical advice on how to put together a garden

that shines throughout the year. A great winter read. Pacific Northwest Magazine