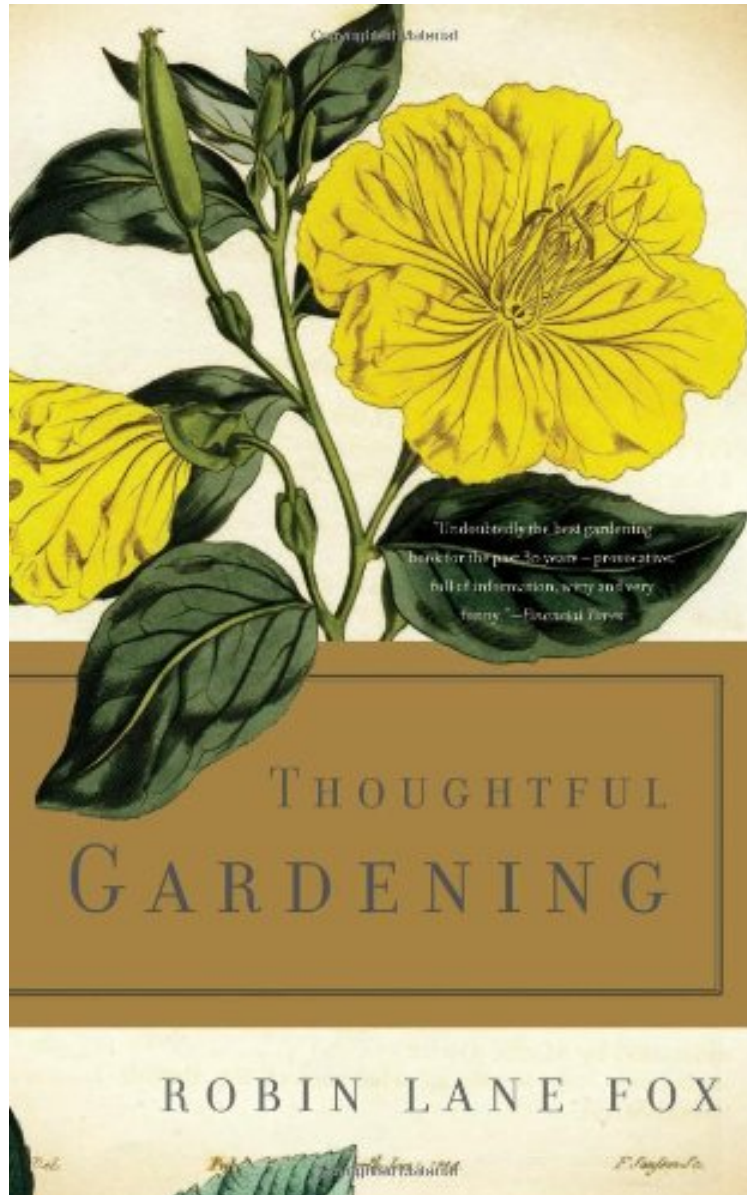


(Ebook pdf) Thoughtful Gardening

## Thoughtful Gardening

*Robin Lane Fox*

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**Robin Lane Fox : Thoughtful Gardening** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thoughtful Gardening:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Gardening stories and more By Customer The author is an academic historian whose other lifelong passion is gardening. Drawing on his 40 years of experience writing a gardening column for London's Financial Times, his travels to gardens around the world, and his own decades of

practical gardening, Robin Lane Fox presents a series of essays on gardening and gardens, and he often expands into history, people, and political asides. While I do not always agree with him (he seems a little misogynistic at times, and he is a strong advocate for fox hunting), his stories are entertaining and his gardening wisdom is spot-on. I especially like the color photos...not too many, but what is there is beautiful. My favorite is the photo of his own home in the Cotswolds. Thoughtful Gardening is a book for truly passionate gardeners. Casual gardeners may find it a bit intense...or it may expand their horizons and light a spark. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable, Informative, Engaging, Erudite By Philip A. Bailly This book has worthwhile information about various cultivars of border plants that grow in the U.K. Sometimes one wonders how applicable the information would be elsewhere. The author often expresses preferences for various cultivars due to their appearance, especially flower color. I think some of it might have 'universal' application and some of it might just be his personal opinion with which some might disagree. I am not sure he has seen every cultivar of every species and compared them and selected the best ones even though he conveys the idea he has identified the best ones. Sometimes while reading it, I wish it had been organized alphabetically like an encyclopedia with entries for various ornamental cultivars and cultural information and gardens worth visiting. Because it is instead organized in short chapters, it is more of a book for leisure reading which is at times a shame because it would have value organized as more of a reference. One can rely on the index for that to some extent if desired. There's some British humor, for example, about intrusive rabbits and badgers. While I found clever humor about their nocturnal mating habits rather contrived and forced, greater fans of British humor might enjoy it and other passages of dry humor, sometimes about saucy behavior. It provides a smattering of information about appealing combinations of plants in herbaceous borders and very little information about topics such as garden layout. The author doesn't offer much in terms of spatial, 3-dimensional aspects of gardens that could enhance the information considerably and make you feel like you were strolling through and experiencing some of the gardens. It's often more about cultivars than about gardens. Robin Lane Fox eruditely and convincingly writes about his passion for ornamental plants and depth of gardening experience while injecting the text with occasional intellectual discourse, just as one would expect from a Oxford don and passionate gardener who includes photos of himself gardening in a blazer. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good for those who live in the area where these plants can grow. By Kener Actually bought it for the dedication which is so great and I could really relate to.

"Undoubtedly the best gardening book for the past 30 years--provocative, full of information, witty and very funny" -- Financial Times

From Publishers Weekly In this collection of 80 essays, the Financial Times gardening columnist and Oxford historian presents a convincing case that gardening is about far more than horticultural skill. For Fox, flower gardens are human creations informed by art, history, science, politics, and personality. He takes readers on a year-long tour that combines practical guidance, serious reflection, and humorous provocations. There are essays on individual species, rich with detailed information on exceptional cultivars and best cultivation methods, throughout the year. Other essays reveal Fox's candid, personal impressions of well-known gardeners, including some surprising insights about Christopher Lloyd and Rosemary Verey. He shares his sensitive impressions of distinguished gardens around the globe and the Sisyphean struggles in his own garden. Fox's iconoclastic beliefs and nonorganic methods might alienate some purists, but most gardeners will delight in this rich collection. Opinionated, witty, and erudite, this collection is an example of the best garden writing. (Dec.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist Devoted gardeners love reading about gardening almost sometimes more than the actual act itself. There is something reassuring and inspiring about glimpsing into the lives, recognizing the habits, and contemplating the opinions of the giants of the garden that validates every quirk, foible, and attitude one has amassed oneself. As the venerated gardening columnist for Britain's Financial Times, acclaimed author, and Garden Master at Oxford University, the acerbic, intuitive, and erudite Fox trots out his own well-honed appreciation for specific cultivars, shares his frustrations with stealthy squirrels and belligerent badgers, and dishes on horticultural divas from Nancy Lancaster to Christopher Lloyd in a seasonal collection of expressive essays in which he travels the world, from his own cozy Cotswold garden to Yves Saint Laurent's opulent Marrakech retreat. Though American readers may be impeded by the preponderance of UK-centric references to both plants and locations, these should not overshadow the immense wealth of practical gardening information and insight Fox imparts. --Carol Haggas As the venerated gardening columnist for Britain's Financial Times, acclaimed author, and Garden Master at Oxford University, the acerbic, intuitive, and erudite Fox trots out his own well-honed appreciation for specific cultivars, shares his frustrations with stealthy squirrels and belligerent badgers, and dishes on horticultural divas from Nancy Lancaster to Christopher Lloyd in a seasonal collection of expressive essays in which he travels the world, from his own cozy Cotswold garden to Yves Saint Laurent's opulent Marrakech retreat. "Booklist" In Thoughtful Gardening we have this thoughtful gardener's musings--wit and wisdom in equal measure--boiled down into its richest essence, as he squires us, passage by passage, through a gardener's year.... This is that rarest of species that makes us not merely keener gardeners, but wiser human beings. If your aim in life is to live it richly--in thought, in habit, in articulation--then grab the book, fluff the cushions

and settle in for some necessary winter's reading. Higher praise, we can't imagine."Chicago Tribune"For Lane Fox, flower gardens are human creations informed by art, history, science, politics, and personality. He takes readers on a year-long tour that combines practical guidance, serious reflection, and humorous provocations.... Opinionated, witty, and erudite, this collection is an example of the best garden writing."Publishers Weekly" This immense wealth of practical information and insight supports the maxim that sometimes devoted gardeners love reading about gardening almost more than the actual act itself."