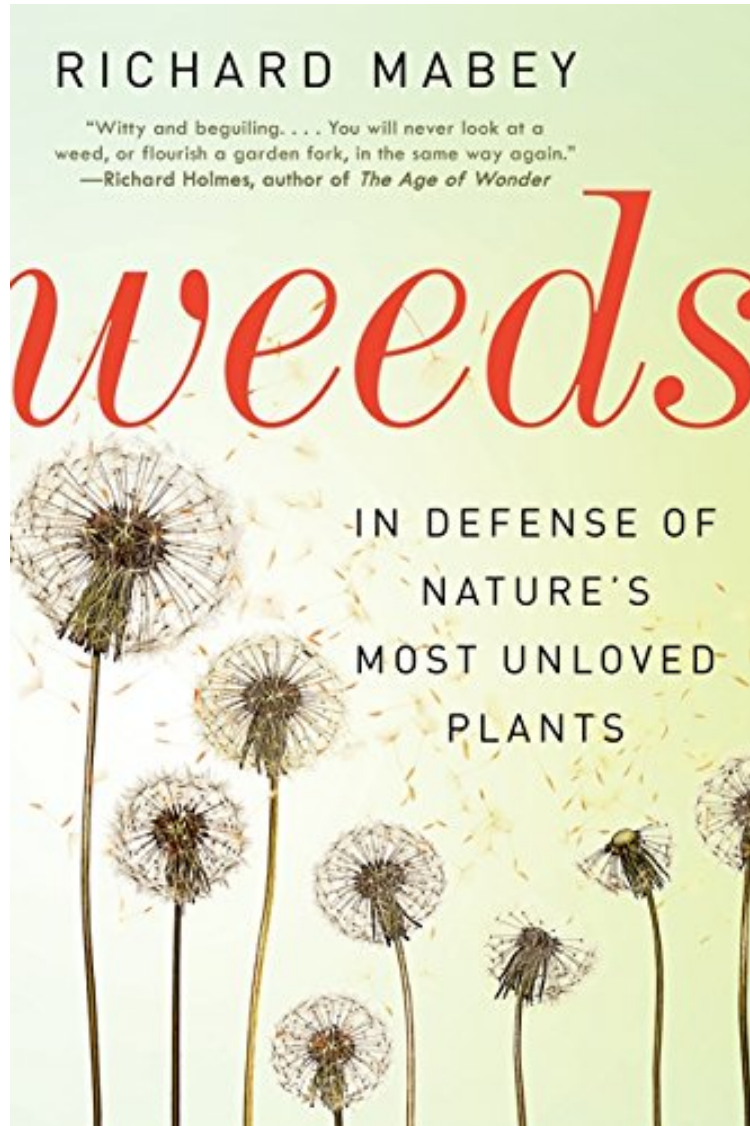


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## Weeds: In Defense of Nature's Most Unloved Plants

Richard Mabey

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**Richard Mabey : Weeds: In Defense of Nature's Most Unloved Plants** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weeds: In Defense of Nature's Most Unloved Plants:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful read! By Just kath I am and have always been a fan of "weeds". I have studied herbalism, and and have used so called "weeds" and herbs for many things over the years. This is like an epic, family story of weeds, where they started, where to find them. It also goes back to many herbalists and naturalists, including Culpepper and cites sources. Far from being dry and textbook-like, it is witty and interesting and downright fascinating. If you like flowers, wildflowers, herbs or yes, what some people call weeds.. you really need to

read this book. recommended. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A New Appreciation for These Wild Green Soldiers By P. J. Horowitz I purchased this book after a recent move to the country in which it appeared that nearly everything growing on our ten acres was a weed. After reading Mr. Mabey's book it's clear that I wasn't wrong about my weed assessment, but I now have a better appreciation of their role, and am much less inclined to try to get rid of them all. Indeed I probably couldn't! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. for everyone who enjoys the summer roadside as much as they do a formal garden. By Judith Dove all my life I have appreciated the beauty that is provided to the world for free by the many varieties of flowering (and non-flowering) plants that grow along roadsides, at the edge of woods, in highway medians, even in the cracks of city sidewalks. Richard Mabey speaks eloquently of such a love of his native England's hedgerows, industrial waste-sites, and similar areas. I enjoy his writing and his efforts to point out to us what we may have been missing right under our noses.

[A] witty and beguiling meditation on weeds and their wily ways. You will never look at a weed, or flourish a garden fork, in the same way again. Richard Holmes, author of *The Age of Wonder* In this fascinating, richly detailed book, Richard Mabey gives weeds their full due. Carl Zimmer, author of *Evolution* Richard Mabey, Great Britain's greatest living nature writer (London Times), has written a stirring and passionate defense of nature's most unloved plants. *Weeds* is a fascinating, eye-opening, and vastly entertaining appreciation of the natural world's unappreciated wildflowers that will appeal to fans of David Attenborough, Robert Sullivans *Rats*, Amy Stewart's *Wicked Plants*, and to armchair gardeners, horticulturists, green-thumbs, all those who stop to smell the flowers.

Fascinating. . . [A] loving tribute to the common weed. (Associated Press) Entertaining. . . [A] sprightly journey through horticultural history. (Wall Street Journal) Wry and subtle. . . Mabey argues without scolding, that at a time of great environmental change and uncertainty, weeds may soon be all we've got left. (New York Times Book ) Smart. . . Mabey is at his best when he takes us along on his own weedy adventures. (Washington Post) Like Michael Pollan in *The Botany of Desire*, Mabey shows that it is not at all clear here who is in charge, who has the moral high ground and who will survive long after the last weed has been pulled from the last over-tended suburban acre. (Los Angeles Times) Excellent. . . He tracks humanity's ongoing tussle with weeds, all in prose that delights at every turn. (Cleveland Plain Dealer) Elegant and thoughtful. . . I may not turn the mower aside when I encounter the next thistly, pod-bearing stem. But I will stop, stoop and take a closer look. (Dallas Morning News) A jaunty chronicle of botany and history that ventures from the first farm fields of Mesopotamia to the broken asphalt of our modern cities. (Charleston Post Courier) A lyrical, wise, witty, intimate musing about garden outcasts and about us, too. (Minneapolis Star Tribune) As witty and lively as it is comprehensive. . . A stimulating sojourn with the world's most fascinating and ingenious plants. (Portsmouth Herald) Enchanting. . . Weeds charms as much as it informs. . . After reading this book, you will likely view the invaders in your own garden with a newfound respect; it's quite possible you'll find a bit of romance in them, too. (Barnes Noble ) Weeds are often described as plants in the wrong place. In fact, explains Richard Mabey in this delightful and casually learned book, they are in precisely the right place for themselves: next to us. (The Economist) Weeds may seem a soft subject for a book. Not so in the hands of Richard Mabey. . . Mabey's book. . . suggests that weeds may, in fact, have made civilization possible and, with climate change, may keep the planet alive. (Financial Times) Enlightening. . . After reading this book, you'll look down at the ground with more interest and appreciation and think twice before pulling something out. (New York Journal of Books) Captivating. . . Mabey is a comprehensive guide who wears his learning as lightly as a dandelion seedhead. There's no fluff here, though, only fascinating fodder for thought. (BookPage, Lifestyle Column Top Pick) A charming paean to plants sometimes ignored and often detested. (Science News) [W]onderful. . . [P]resents a compelling case that weeds, the opportunists of the plant world, play a vital role in filling the empty spaces of the earth caused by natural disasters or human events. (Washington Independent of Books) Outstanding. . . An engrossing and captivating exploration of the tenacious, often beautiful, sometimes destructive, plants we designate as weeds. (Shelf Awareness) A lively [and] fascinating tale of history and botany. . . Mabey deftly argues that the world's most unloved plants deserve our fascination and respect. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) A loving and lyrical tribute. . . Mabey's deft and spirited treatise on nature's supervillains will have readers remembering A.A. Milne's defense of weeds in *Winnie the Pooh*: Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them. (Kirkus ) With a mixture of dry wit and serious science, Mabey's provocative book . . . suggests an alliance with weeds—the plants that may save us in a time of global warming. (Booklist) A readable, wide-ranging, carefully documented, and personal look at a group of plants not often written about in a sympathetic manner. Recommended. (Library Journal) Witty and beguiling. . . You will never look at a weed, or flourish a garden fork, in the same way again. (Richard Holmes, author of *The Age of Wonder*) Mabey's personal, historical, and cultural viewpoint converts weeds into intellectually stunning wild flowers! (Bill Streever, author of *Cold*) Fascinating [and] richly detailed. . . Weeds, Mabey makes clear, are a reflection of our own culture—perhaps, our own weediness. (Carl Zimmer, author of *Evolution*) From the Back Cover Weeds are botanical thugs, but they have always been essential to our lives. They were the first crops and medicines and they inspired Velcro. They adorn weddings and foliate the most derelict urban sites. With the verve and historical breadth of Michael Pollan, acclaimed nature writer Richard Mabey delivers a

provocative defense of the plants we love to hate. About the Author Richard Mabey is widely hailed as Britain's foremost nature writer. He is the author of the groundbreaking book on foraging in the countryside *Food for Free* and the editor of *The Oxford Book of Nature Writing*. He has narrated and produced popular BBC television and radio series, and has written for the *Guardian*, *Granta*, and other publications. He lives in Norfolk, England.