

(Download free ebook) Why We Garden: Cultivating a Sense of Place

## Why We Garden: Cultivating a Sense of Place

*Jim Nollman*

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



#2776689 in Books Henry Holt n Co 1994-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.75 x 8.50 x 1.25l, #File Name: 080502719X312 pages | File size: 15.Mb

**Jim Nollman : Why We Garden: Cultivating a Sense of Place** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why We Garden: Cultivating a Sense of Place:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Uniquely guiding the reader through an intimate respect of "green thumb" activitiesBy Midwest Book ReviewWhy We Garden: Cultivating A Sense Of Place by artist, essayist, and environmental activist Jim Nollman offers an inspired and inspiring perspective as he writes about the art and ideals of gardening, including cogent observations with respect to psychological and personal reasons for gardening. Uniquely guiding the reader through an intimate respect of "green thumb" activities, Why We Garden addresses the popular and wide spread hobby of gardening with an able grasp and understanding of its therapeutic and consoling attributes, as well as its aesthetic connection developed between gardener and garden. Why We Garden is to be given high praise, and very strong recommendation reading for anyone contemplating or engaged in gardening as a recreational hobby or as a personal lifestyle.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. imbuing our gardens with fun and meaningBy Paul A. KelleyWhy We Garden by Jim Nollman is a great book for inspiration and philosophical enrichment. He is both utterly quixotic and academically astute as he writes creative essays based loosely around the twelve months of the year and the experiences (and plants) he's accumulated in his garden(s) in the Pacific Northwest. His essays address issues of connectedness to place and how we as individuals and as a society can rethink gardening to make our experiences more about learning from nature and less about dominating or controlling nature. But he isn't didactic or dry and always seems to be able to bring his most way-out ideas back down to earth before the end of the chapter. I

highly recommend it for people like me who can't help but think about why we do the things we do and how we can give them more meaning. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. On becoming a gardener By Dianne Foster I am reviewing this book because I read it and it's one of my all time favorites. I'm a fairly successful gardener. People stop on my street and admire my flowers. Many friends and acquaintances ask for advice. I wish I had written this book, it says what I want to say. Learning to garden is a process of bringing forth what already exists inside you. One learns to garden through trial and error, and what works in one garden may not work in another. Cookie cutter directions simply don't work, and when one follows them and fails, one feels like a failure. Nollman writes about gardening in his part of the world, which is not like your part of the world or my part of the world, but the thoughts he shares transcend these differences. There are two major approaches to gardening: one organic--spiritual and esthetic; the other nonorganic and ugly. To be content, Nollman says, all you need is love and an organic garden. Nothing works if you work against nature (probably the reason our forebears were thrown out of Eden). WHY WE GARDEN helped me maintain the link between the inner gardener I was born to be and Gaia.

This book is full of helpful tips from the authors decades of gardening experience. And, it presents the Zen of gardening the sense of place and purpose that tending the land means to us. It is a wonderful gift for the gardener seeking the simplicity and spirit of the land.

From Booklist Nollman's view of gardening is spiritual, expressing an abiding concern for the natural order of things and discomfort with the reigning philosophy among enthusiasts who seek to control nature in order to achieve an aesthetic landscape. When Nollman generously shares his observations on "plant personalities" or ventures forth on unorthodox types of gardens, his views are as entertaining as they are instructive. The "biocentric" approach reflected here is about a fundamental connection with nature that transforms the act of gardening into an adventure filled with lessons great and small. Nollman's harvest is abundant, with much to be reflected upon and all-out savored. Alice Joyce From Kirkus sNollman (Spiritual Ecology, not reviewed) offers provocative reflections on the need to create a sense of place--"a bit of paradise within an imperfect world." Nollman offers an eclectic month-by-month record of his gardening experiences. For this ex-hippie, who admits he came to gardening with many fixed ideas and prejudices that he has since abandoned or modified, a garden is a place where a genuine healing relationship between person and place can be formed. Asserting that that "we, the increasingly rootless species, must learn to root...must learn to nurture the ground that sustains us," he demonstrates how this can be done. In essays that reflect the changing seasons in his own island garden in Puget Sound, Wash., Nollman discusses attitudes to nature that have led to widespread environmental damage; the need for a middle ground between ecology ideologues and ordinary farmers; and the indivisibility of all life forms. The progress of a sequoia tree he plants near a pond in his "one-tree garden" provides a common thread for both his practical comments and his philosophy. The broader topics are illustrated by examples from his garden: In "March: The Soil Garden" he gives a history of soil and shares his techniques for creating a nutrient-rich soil; in "June: The Semi-Real Garden" he ponders the effects of plant hybridization and his affection for a double peony that "epitomizes all the excess of the semi-real flower world"; and in "October: The Weed Garden" he suggests alternatives to herbicides for resolving weeding problems while noting that weeds are "simply those unintended plants able to thrive and heal broken ground." Like the best gardeners, Nollman knows that gardening is as much about living as it is about growing the perfect rose. A gardening book refreshingly rooted in reality that is also balm for the spirit. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "Nollman's work is as much about gardening as Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance is about motorcycles."--Eric Utne, Utne Reader "Packed with useful information as well as mystical elaboration, Nollman's book responds to the needs of gardeners who want to transcend the limitations of Western traditional gardens."--Milwaukee Journal