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GARDENS

ILLUSTRATED

Small gardens issue

get maximum
style from a
compact space

Using grasses
for texture and
movement

WATER WISE

An Australian
family garden
led by sustainability

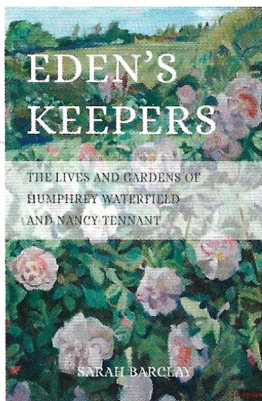
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**RAISED
PLANTERS
FOR EASY
GROWING**

Abutilon
add a touch of
the exotic

Who wants grey?
Sheffield's blooming city streets

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EDEN'S KEEPERS: THE LIVES AND GARDENS OF HUMPHREY WATERFIELD AND NANCY TENNANT
by Sarah Barclay

Clearview Books, £25
ISBN 978-1908337634

The page-turning love story of two exceptional 20th-century garden makers, written by one of Tennant's granddaughters.

Reviewer Ambra Edwards is a writer and garden historian.

This book is only tangentially about gardens. And yet gardens form the very core of the story, for it is above all through gardens that the love is expressed between the competent, clever, deeply musical painter and campaigner Nancy Tennant, and the much younger object of her affections, Humphrey Waterfield, who for decades remained what we might nowadays call her 'gay best friend'. Yet the term hardly does justice to the deep and complex relationship between this generous-hearted woman and her charming, gifted, emotionally infantile and monstrously selfish, not-quite-lover.

Shortly before the Second World War, they began work on a garden together, Hill Pasture, near Nancy's family home in Essex. News of the garden, with Nancy's lyrical evocation of springtime in England, is what sustains Humphrey through the brutalities of war. On his return, it becomes his purpose, admired by the early 1970s as

'the most beautiful small garden in England'.

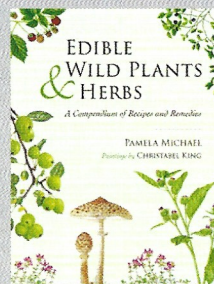
However, for most gardeners, Waterfield is more closely associated with Le Clos du Peyronnet, the internationally famous garden in Menton, France. This was the home of his parents, hastily abandoned when the Nazis invaded France, and restored from ruin after the war to become one of the great glories of the Riviera. Save for a few blurry, black-and-white photos, there is frustratingly little about it.

Nor is there more than passing mention of Abbots Ripton Hall, the garden Waterfield designed in Cambridgeshire (not Yorkshire – an editorial oversight) or the work he did at Greys Court.

So those seeking to learn more about this still relatively little-known artist-gardener (the famous American designer Lanning Roper, for one, rated him, eulogising his talents in *Country Life*) will feel short-changed, but all can enjoy a poignant love story, rich in historical detail.

Other books

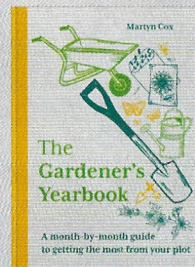
From indoor displays to plant-inspired self-help and the wild side of gardening, the best of the rest of this month's books.



EDIBLE WILD PLANTS AND HERBS

by Pamela Michael
Grub Street, £25
ISBN 978-1911667346

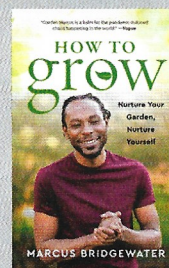
Both a field guide and cookbook for budding foragers, with illustrations by one of the country's leading botanical artists.



THE GARDENER'S YEARBOOK

by Martyn Cox
Mitchell Beazley, £18.99
ISBN 978-1784728151

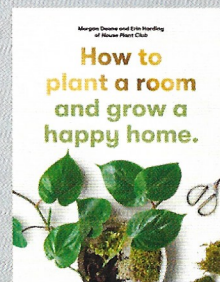
An experienced horticulturist's monthly guide to gardening, with wise, clear and helpful advice on tackling the essential tasks and dealing with problems.



HOW TO GROW

by Marcus Bridgewater
HarperOne, £17.99
ISBN 978-0063141445

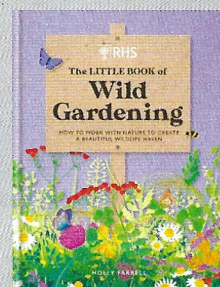
The social media star known as Garden Marcus shares tips on caring for oneself and one's plants, with lessons for growth rooted in his gardening experiences.



HOW TO PLANT A ROOM AND GROW A HAPPY HOME

by Morgan Doane and Erin Harding
Laurence King Publishing, £12.99
ISBN 978-0857829061

By the authors of *How to Raise a Plant and Make it Love You Back*. Features step-by-step plant projects and styling ideas.



THE LITTLE BOOK OF WILD GARDENING

by Holly Farrell
Mitchell Beazley, £14.99
ISBN 978-1784728335

How to embrace a natural approach to gardening. Divided into sections for different garden areas, from flowerbeds to water features.