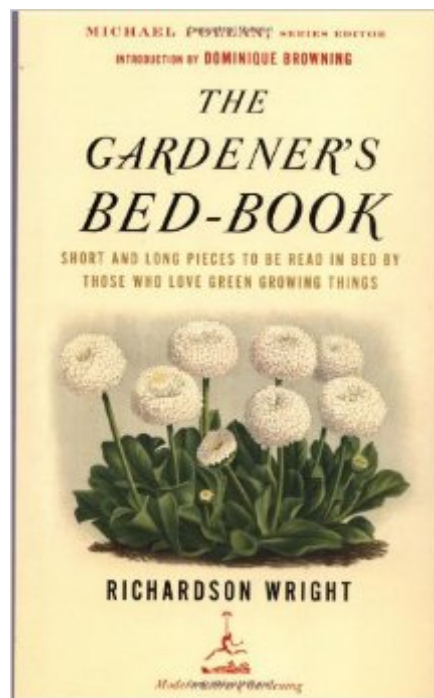


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# The Gardener's Bed-Book: Short And Long Pieces To Be Read In Bed By Those Who Love Green Growing Things (Modern Library Gardening)



## Synopsis

First published in 1929, *The Gardener's Bed-Book* is a much beloved gardening classic by the renowned editor of *House & Garden* magazine in the 1920s and '30s. Each of its 365 perfectly sized little essays is meant to be read in bed at night after a long day's work, either real or imagined, in the garden. A charming and mischievously funny companion to curl up with, Wright ranges comfortably and lyrically from giving gardening advice to meditating on such topics as antique collecting and travel, great literature and architecture. He is an addictive delight, as memorable describing the challenges of growing plume poppies as he is the simple pleasure of hanging up the dish towel once the housework is done. Written in language that is as timeless as it is seductive, *The Gardener's Bed-Book* will appeal to gardening experts and armchair enthusiasts alike. This Modern Library edition is published with a new Introduction by Dominique Browning, the editor in chief of *House & Garden* and author of *Around the House and in the Garden* and the forthcoming *Paths of Desire: The Passions of a Suburban Gardener*.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Editor and writer Michael Pollen has added Richardson Wright's *THE GARDENER'S BED BOOK* (first published in 1929) to the Modern Library Garden Series. Although Wright included an entry for every day of the year plus a longer piece for each of the first 11 months, I read about ten pages a night and thus finished it in about a month. Wright was the editor-in-chief of *House and Garden* for thirty four years. He and his wife were upscale, maintaining homes in New York City and Connecticut. He had a hired gardener to help him mind his acreage and apparently room for pigs

and chickens. Wright says he has not written a "how-to" gardening book. However, he offers mostly useful garden suggestions at the end of each entry (for those in growing zone 5 or 6 in Connecticut), as well as a few bits of wisdom. Wright also wrote a few comments some will find offensive. Vegetarians will find his interaction with two pigs named WEE-WEE and FANNIE a bit painful. (He raised and slaughtered them during the course of the year.) African Americans may object to either one or both of two entries in the latter part of the book. (i.e., Wright and his wife collected antiques and among other items he was searching for a "yard-boy.") Wright offers some sage advice, such as working off anger by destroying tent caterpillar nests and never giving up on a plant until you've tried it thrice. He also suggests the need for a club for men who have given up golf and taken up gardening which he views as a superior activity. He has some suggestions about tracking the weather using hard to find antiques such as a Dutch weather glass that may be more reliable than "modern" technology. (My bones are more reliable than modern technology!!)

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