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Fairy Gardens: A Guide To Growing An Enchanted Miniature World



Synopsis

Fairy gardens are arranged with the kinds of miniature plants and accessories that might tempt a fairy to visit. In this illustrated book, Betty Earl tells what fairy gardens are and how to make and care for them, relates fairy lore and folklore, introduces the plants associated with fairies, and describes miniature plants for fairy and miniature gardens, indoors or out. There are 103 colorful photographs along with information on building or buying accessories for these delightful fantasy gardens. Contents: Chapter 1: What is a Fairy Garden? Chapter 2: What or Who are the Fairies? Chapter 3: Creating a Successful Fairy Garden Children and Fairy Gardens Your Own Fairy Garden Locating Your Outdoor Fairy Garden Pick a Theme Fairy Houses Fairy Doors Chapter 4: Combining and Adding Plants and Accessories Plants for Outdoor Fairy Gardens Indoor (Dish) Container Fairy Gardens Fairy Garden Accessories Adding Fairies Chapter 5: Gardening with the Fairies A Sampling of Fairy Legends Flowers and Plants for Fairy Use Flowers and Plants Associated with Fairies Cicely Mary Barker's Flower Fairies Chapter 6: Planting and Maintenance of Fairy Gardens Further Reading, Resources, and Index

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Customer Reviews

If you love fairy gardens, fairy lore or just think you might then you should purchase this book! Betty Earl does a wonderful job educating the reader in the history of fairies and how to attract them to your garden. She provides comprehensive information on miniature plants and how to care for them. Wondering how to decorate and furnish your miniature world? No worries she tells you how

you do that too. Lots of gorgeous photos featuring every style of miniature garden you can imagine. This is a book I will read again and again.

I have been fairy gardening for about 13 years. I teach a workshop on building fairy furniture and fairy houses. I recently read *Fairy Gardens: A Guide to Growing an Enchanted Miniature World*. I now recommend it to everyone who has questions about Fairy Gardening. The author did an amazing job with researching and explaining this type of miniature gardening. This book needs to be a part of every gardeners book collection.

I couldn't put down the book; it's fascinating. So much solid information on how to create gorgeous miniature gardens worthy of a fairy! I learned a lot about fairy legends, too. Terrific book for children. The photos alone will delight the young and old.

If you are looking for extensive pictures to copy to start your garden, this is not the book for you. If you need good technical information, both for containers and for open space gardens, this is the book for you. It's as simple as that. I will confess to wanting the pictures, but wound up with a book that did teach me several things that I didn't realize, so I got the best book after all. Don't get me wrong, there are a few pictures, but the technical information is far more valuable in the long run. I used my own creativity, and now we have a green, healthy little garden with a resident fairy living in a teapot house, and my granddaughters are enthralled. Everybody's happy in our miniature world.

I must be one of the few people in the gardening world who has not yet caught on to the fun of fairy gardening. However, after reading this book, I'm completely hooked! Based on the information and ideas in this book, I know how my daughter and I are going to spend our time on Mother's Day--creating our first fairy garden! Thank you Betty for providing such usable ideas and how-to's.

Thanks to the publisher for providing me a review copy of this delightful book, which combines the magic of fairy lore and gardening in a fun and whimsical manner. My favorite part of the book is the chapter on plant selection. The list of plants by sun/shade and moisture requirements is extremely helpful. The author gives in-depth descriptions and has photos of many of the plants. Don't forget to take a copy of *Fairy Gardens* with you when you visit your local nursery or garden center to choose your plants! [...]

This was an odd fairy garden book because there really isn't a fairy garden in the book. There are cropped photos of parts of what possibly were gardens, but not a complete fairy garden. The photos were tiny and the text was small and laborious to read (all narrative). There's a section on attracting fairies (p. 13) which was strange and kind of preachy about gardening with no chemicals, recycling, composting, etc which seemed out of place for a book on fairy gardens. The fairies were particularly ugly and detracted from the other photos. Most of the little photos were collections of purchased objects made into a scene, like a nativity scene, without any plants or garden and there were many wasted pages on superfluous garbage few people would care about (like the correct way to spell fairy). When she mentions the fairies loving little cottages to sleep in she included a photo of a huge plaster fairy house with windows and doors painted on that looks very made in china. How's the fairy getting inside? If the author wants to hold my hand and take me on a fairy ride, make it believable, otherwise stick to instructions on creating an actual garden (especially if you preach for twenty pages about how paying attention to details is so important). While I'm at it, the preaching really got to me: (from p. 28) "Fairies do not embrace plastic houses or artificial flowers and including these items in a fairy garden design detracts from its charm." That's probably why the few houses in this book are resin or plaster and made in china, right? There is a very small plant section with the word "miniature" slapped in front of the name of a houseplant. My local nurseries had none of them. Take away the expensive fairy furniture and made in china houses and there are no gardens in this book.

As a professional horticulturist I sometimes receive books to review and say yay or nay. This is one of those books. Next week is Mother's Day and if she is a gardener, let me suggest a book for her. "Fairy Gardens" by Betty Earl is a delightful book beckoning you into the miniature world of fairies, elves and other little people. It's a guide that takes you through making, creating, plant selection and suggestions for indoor and outdoor use. This is a great idea to get children interested in gardening too! This is something manageable for their small hands and you can watch the joy in their eyes as the magical little world comes to life for them. It also works well for the child in all of us!

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