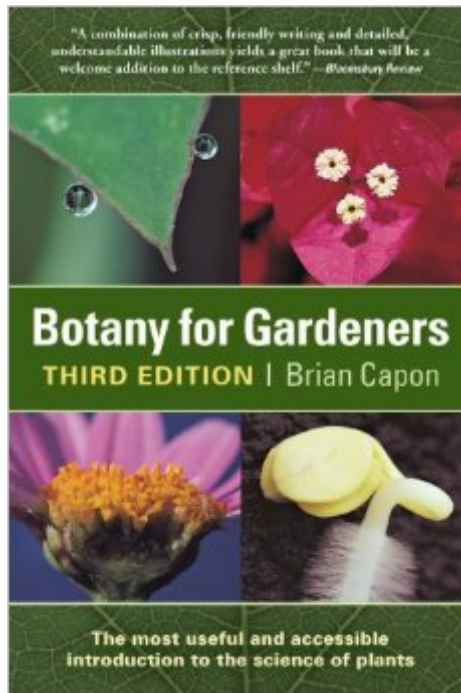


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Botany For Gardeners: Third Edition (Science For Gardeners)



Synopsis

A bestseller since its debut in 1990, this indispensable and handy reference has now been expanded and updated to include an appendix on plant taxonomy and a comprehensive index. Two dozen new photos and illustrations make this new edition even richer with information. Its convenient paperback format makes it easy to carry and access, whether you are in or out of the garden. An essential overview of the science behind plants for beginning and advanced gardeners alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was required for a Botany/Horticulture Class at community college. The book is very concise and the author is very precise with every word. A very well written text! This book is very appropriate for college class, but may be too technical for the average gardener. Check it out at the local library before you buy.

This book was recommended in the Master Gardener program. It is very readable with lots of useful

photos and diagrams. It makes a difficult subject easy to understand. Highly recommended.

I was having trouble ploughing through a botany textbook, getting lost in the myriads of details. Brian Capon takes a different tack-- the key facts explained clearly with diagrams. And, such interesting facts-- a 50 foot silver maple transpires nearly 60 gallons per hour! He taught botany for 30 years, and it shows in his clear and concise book.

To begin, I should mention I have a B.S. in Biology, and also have a natural curiosity about the workings of the natural world (meaning I not only have gotten the education, but care enough to have absorbed the knowledge I was privy to). Simply put, the information provided in this book is in-depth enough to give you a fundamental understanding of how plants work on the cellular level. For gardeners this is extremely useful. Instead of knowing anecdotally that cutting off the apical meristem promotes lateral shoot growth you'll know the chemical mechanism behind it. You can then take that fundamental knowledge and apply it. For example, the same chemical messenger that's responsible for the growth response just mentioned also regulates root growth. In fact, the root growth hormones you feed cutting is an artificial replica of the growth hormone (auxin) that is responsible for shoot growth. You can then get even more in-depth as you investigate how auxin navigates its way through the plant by means of xylem and phloem (just phloem for this particular molecule). The point is that this book is not only practically useful, but, for me, exciting because you learn the highly complex biological processes that are going on under the surface (so to speak) for every seemingly stoic plant outside your window. Side note: the book also has a large number of very high quality pictures that make understanding and remembering the info quite easy. I highly recommend this book to any gardener.

I teach from this text...was introduced to it by my instructor...it is "top drawer." Clear explanations, enough information to make you buy a big Biology book (like the Raven Johnston book) for the botany content (botany, chemistry, and physics are all related!)...because it lets you know there's more to know, but it doesn't saddle you with all the information at once.

So many things make this little book a treasure: it has beautifully drawn and clearly annotated sketches as well as electron microscope photos. It is organized and labeled in large sections within which are individually titled chapters. It has current material (chemistry of processes, impact of global warming). Plant related terms abound but for most the Latin root has been given along with

that meaning, a great aid to remembering unfamiliar words. This professional botanist has been able to present the material with clarity and simplicity, making using the book a pleasure. Also it has high quality paper; always a plus for books that will be used again and again. I just had mine spiral bound so it will lie flat. The original binding has sewn signatures, so it's a good binding just as it is.

I was looking for a book that was not unnecessarily technical, and that would give me a better understanding of what's going on in my garden. This book does just that by explaining, in scientific detail, what's really going on in my plants, and it does it in a way that is not boring. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants a greater understanding of plants to help them in their gardening.

Dr. Capon's "Botany for Gardeners" is a wonderful reference book for anyone who is interested in plants. I found it clear to read and comprehend (and I despise hard to read books). Content is presented in a vocabulary that is clear, economic, and easy to comprehend. The pictures and diagrams appear to be modern, and clear to contemplate. I found the material so digestible that I finished the book quickly. It really is a page turner for the plant-geek curious; I still go back to it often.

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