The Magical World Of Moss Gardening
This is a fascinating book for anyone wanting to truly broaden the range of plants they grow. "Gardens Illustrated Moss is an extraordinary plant: it grows without roots, flowers, or stems. Despite being overlooked, in many ways, moss is perfect: it provides year-round color, excels in difficult climates, prevents soil erosion, and resists pests and disease. In The Magical World of Moss Gardening, bryophyte expert Annie Martin reveals how moss can be used in stunning, eco-friendly spaces. The beautifully illustrated guide includes basics on designing and planting a moss garden, as an inspiring tour of the most magical public and private moss gardens throughout the country.

**Synopsis**

I'm divided about this book. If I wanted to be a moss gardener, it would certainly provide me with all the information I needed, and for that, it gets 5 stars. The photos of mosses and moss gardens are beautiful, and for that it gets 5 stars as well. But while the author repeatedly emphasizes ecology and ecosystems and being in touch with nature, she has made it clear that moss gardening is a profoundly anti-ecological activity. To plant and maintain a moss garden, one needs to be vigilant against all other forms of plant life, sweeping, blowing, and plucking it to prevent it from intruding. Autumn leaves, pine needles, nuts, seeds, debris, bird poop, deer and rabbit poop—all needs to be meticulously removed. Horrible birds might come and try to eat bugs from your moss, or poop on it or scuff up it up. (Dear God!) Rush to remove all the parts of nature that are truly nature: mulch and decomposition are your enemy. The end-result of all of this is a tidy little paradise that is in profound
ecological imbalance, with a preponderance of only a few species (like spiders and slugs). I love mosses as much as anyone, which is why I wanted to see this book, but really the book--and "moss gardening"--is for the sorts of people who like manicured, artificial surroundings. No birds or deer: just stone lanterns and plastic fairies. I would quibble with the idea of electrical leaf-blowers being better than gas-powered ones. In fact, I would quibble with the idea of any leaf-blower being an ecologically sane gardening instrument. Certainly gas-powered motors use petroleum, but electrical leaf-blowers do not yet run on solar power.

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