

List One:

REFERENCE AND READING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MASTER GARDENER BOOKSHELF

Prepared by George Graine, Emeritus Fairfax Master Gardener, October 15, 2020
Updated October 2022 by the State EMG Office

Up to three hours of CE can be earned per book

ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

IPM for Gardeners: A Guide to Integrated Pest Management, Raymond A. Cloyd, Philip L. Nixon, Nancy R. Pataky (Timber Press, 2004)

Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of Garden Ecology, Eric Grissell (Timber Press, 2001)

Diseases of Trees and Shrubs, Wayne A. Sinclair, Howard H. Lyon, Warren T. Johnson (Comstock Publishing, 1987)

Insects that Feed on Trees and Shrubs, Warren T. Johnson, Howard H. Lyon (Comstock Publishing, 1988)

The Color Atlas of Pests of Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Flowers, David V. Alford (Timber Press, 2005)

Managing Insects and Mites on Woody Plants: An IPM Approach, John A. Davidson and Michael J. Raupp (Tree Care Industry Assn., 2014)

Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control, Jessica Walliser (Timber Press, 2014)

Wasps: Their Biology, Diversity, and Role as Beneficial Insects and Pollinators of Native Plants, Heather Holm (2021)

GARDEN ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Wyman's Garden Encyclopedia, Donald Wyman (MacMillan Publishing, 1986)

Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners, William T. Stearn (Cassell Publishers, 1994)

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses , Michael A. Dirr (Stipes Publishing, 2009)

The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants , Christopher Brickell and H. Marc Cathey (DK Publishing, 2004)

Herbaceous Perennial Plants: A Treatise on Their Identification, Culture and Garden Attributes, Allan M. Armitage (Stipes, Publishing, 2020)

The Homeowner's Complete Tree and Shrub Handbook: The Essential Guide to Choosing, Planting, and Maintaining Perfect Landscape Plants, Penelope O'Sullivan (Storey Publishing, 2007)

Right Plant, Right Place: Over 1400 Plants for Every Situation in the Garden, Nicola Ferguson (Fireside, 2005)

The American Horticultural Society Flower Finder: The Most Authoritative, Comprehensive Guide to Selecting Flowers with Lasting Beauty, the Greatest Pest and Disease Resistance, and the Lowest Maintenance Requirements, Jacqueline Heriteau and Andre Viette (Simon and Schuster, 1992)

Conifers for Gardens: An Illustrated Encyclopedia, Richard L. Bittner (Timber Press, 2007)

Japanese Maples: The Complete Guide to Selection and Cultivation, J. D. Vertrees and Peter Gregory (Timber Press, 2010)

Variegated Trees & Shrubs: The Illustrated Encyclopedia, Ronald Houtman (Timber Press, 2004)

An Encyclopedia of Shade Perennials, W. George Schmid (Timber Press, 2002)

Perennial Ground Covers, David S. MacKenzie (Timber Press, 1997)

Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs, Michael A. Dirr (Timber Press, 2011)

The Complete Handbook of Garden Plants, Michael Wright (Rainbird Publishing, 1984)

The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes, Rick Darke (Timber Press, 2007)

The New York/Mid-Atlantic Book of Lists, Bonnie Lee Appleton and Lois Trigg Chaplin (Taylor Publishing, 2001)

PRUNING

Essential Pruning Techniques: Trees, Shrubs and Conifers, George E. Brown and Tony Kirkham (Timber Press, 2017)

The Pruning Book, Lee Reich (Taunton Press, 2010)

The American Horticultural Society Pruning & Training: The Definitive Guide to Pruning Trees, Shrubs, and Climbers, Christopher Brickell & David Joyce (DK, 1996)

NATIVE PLANTS AND MORE

Easy Care Native Plants: A Guide to Selecting and Using Beautiful American Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees in Gardens and Landscapes, Patricia A. Taylor (Henry Holt, 1996)

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife and Native Plants, Douglas W. Tallamy (Timber Press, 2009)

Requiem for a Lawnmower: And Other Essays on Easy Gardening with Native Plants, Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasowski (Taylor Publishing, 1992)

Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants, C. Colston Burrell (Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2006)

Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards, Sara Stein (Houghton Mifflin, 1993)

A Blessing of Toads: A Guide to Living with Nature, Sharon Lovejoy, (Down East Books, 2015)

SHADE GARDENING

Glorious Shade: Dazzling Plants, Design Ideas and Proven Techniques for Your Shady Garden, Jenny Rose Carey (Timber Press, 2017)

The Complete Shade Gardener, George Schenk (Timber Press, 1991)

Making the Most of Shade: How to Plan, Plant and Grow a Fabulous Garden that Lightens Up the Shadows, Larry Hodgson (Rodale, 2005)

VEGETABLES

How Carrots Won the Trojan War: Curious (but True) Stories of Common Vegetables, Rebecca Rupp (Storey Publishing, 2011)

Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening, Louise Riotte (Garden Way Publishing, 1990)

The Foodscape Revolution: Finding a Better Way to Make Space for Food and Beauty in Your Garden, Brie Arthur (St. Lynn's Press, 2017)

Gardening with Grains: Bring the Versatile Beauty of Grains into Your Landscape, Brie Arthur (St. Lynn's Press, 2019)

Smart Start Garden Planner: Your Step-by-Step Guide to a Successful Season, Megan Cain (2017)

American Horticultural Society Essential Guide to Organic Vegetable Gardening, American Horticultural Society (2025)

Growing Under Cover: Techniques for a More Productive, Weather-Resistant, Pest-Free Vegetable Garden, Niki Jabbour (2020)

OLDER GARDENERS

Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older, Sydney Eddison (Timber Press, 2010)

Late Bloomer: How to Garden with Comfort, Ease and Simplicity in the Second Half of Life, Jan Coppola Bills (St. Lynn's Press, 2016)

The Lifelong Gardener: Garden with Ease & Joy at Any Age, Tony Gattone (Timber Press, 2019)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Plant Driven Design: Creating Gardens That Honor Plants, Place, and Spirit, Scott Ogden & Lauren Springer Ogden (Timber Press, 2008)

The Self-Sustaining Garden: The Guide to Matrix Planting, Peter Thompson (Timber Press, 2007)

A Pattern Garden: The Essential Elements of Garden Making, Valerie Easton (Timber Press, 2007)

Garden Renovation: Transform Your Garden into the Garden of Your Dreams, Bobbie Schwartz (Timber Press, 2017)

Gardening with Shape, Line and Texture: A Plant Design Sourcebook, Linda Hawthorne (Timber Press, 2009)

A Garden in Every Sense and Season, Tovah Martin (Timber Press, 2018)

Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes, Thomas Rainer and Claudia West (Timber Press, 2015)

The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden, Rick Darke & Doug Tallamy (Timber Press, 2014)

Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change, Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher (Timber Press, 2016)

Gardening with Foliage First: 127 Dazzling Combinations that Pair the Beauty of Leaves, with Flowers, Bark, Berries, and More, Karen Chapman and Christina Salwitz (Timber Press, 2017)

The Layered Garden: Design Lessons for Year-Round Beauty from Brandywine Cottage , David L. Culp (Timber Press, 2012)

Fall Landscaping: Extending Your Garden Season into Autumn, Nancy J. Ondra and Stephanie Cohen (Storey Publishing, 2007)

Tough Plants for Tough Places: How to Grow 101 Easy-Care Plants for Every Part of Your Yard, Peter Loewer (Rodale Press, 1992)

Gardens by Design: Expert Advice from the World's Leading Garden Designers, Noel Kingsbury (Timber Press, 2005)

Beautiful No-Mow Yards: 50 Amazing Lawn Alternatives, Evelyn J. Hadden (Timber Press, 2012)

Deer-Resistant Design: Fence-Free Gardens That Thrive Despite the Deer, Karen Chapman (Timber Press, 2019)

Colors for the Garden: Creating Compelling Color Themes, P. Allen Smith (Clarkson-Potter Publishers, 2006)

Color as Garden Design, Sandra Austin (Taunton Press, 1998)

Fearless Color Gardens: The Creative Guide to Jumping Off the Color Wheel, Keeyla Meadows (Timber Press, 2009)

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques, Tracy DiSabato-Aust (Timber Press, 2006)

The Well-Designed Mixed Garden, Tracy DiSabato-Aust (Timber Press, 2003)

The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer: The Essential Guide to Creating Simply Sensational Gardens, Stephanie Cohen & Nancy J. Ondra (Storey Publishing, 2005)

Shrubs & Hedges: Discover, Grow and Care for the World's Most Popular Plants, Eva Monheim (Cool Springs Press, 2020)

Your Natural Garden: A Practical Guide to Caring for an Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden, Kelly D. Norris (2025)

WEATHER EXTREMES - LANDSCAPES

The Weather-Resilient Garden: A Defensive Approach to Planning & Landscaping, Charles W. G. Smith (Storey Publishing, 2004)

The Undaunted Garden: Planting for Weather-Resilient Beauty, Lauren Springer (Fulcrum Publishing, 1994)

A Gardener's Guide to Frost: Outwit the Weather and Extend the Spring and Fall Seasons, Philip Harnden (Willow Creek, 2003)

Heat-Zone Gardening: How to Choose Plants That Thrive in Your Region's Warmest Weather, H. Marc Cathey with Linda Bellamy (Time-Life Books, 1998)

MISCELLANEOUS

Ecology for Gardeners, Steven B. Carrell and Steven D. Salt (Timber Press, 2004)

Practical Science for Gardeners, Mary Pratt (Timber Press, 2005)

How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do, Linda Chalker-Scott (Timber Press, 2015)

Weeds in My Garden: Observations on Some Misunderstood Plants, Charles B. Heiser (Timber Press, 2003)

Planthropology: The Myths, Mysteries and Miracles of My Garden Favorites, Ken Druse (Clarkson Potter Publishers, 2008)

Flora of Virginia, Alan S. Weakley, J. Christopher Ludwig, John E. Townsend, Bland Crowder (Editor), (Brit Press, 2012)

Consider the Leaf: Foliage in Garden Design, Judy Glattstein (Timber Press, 2003)

Tree Bark: A Color Guide: Hugues Vaucher (Timber Press, 2003)

The Truth About Garden Remedies: What Works, What Doesn't & Why, Jeff Gillman (Timber Press, 2006)

The Truth About Organic Gardening: Benefits, Drawbacks and the Bottom Line, Jeff Gillman (Timber Press, 2008)

EMG 2020 CE READING LIST BASED ON PAST EMG COLLEGE SPEAKERS

Prepared by Emma Freeborn, EMG Intern, October 2020

Appleton, Bonnie. (1986). *Container Nursery Designs*

Appleton, Bonnie. (1988). *Herbicide Injury to Trees and Shrubs: A Pictorial Guide to Symptom Diagnosis*

Appleton, Bonnie. (1988). *Landscape Rejuvenation: Remodeling the Home Landscape*

Appleton, Bonnie. (1993). *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines*

Appleton, Bonnie. (1995). *Trees, Shrubs, and Climbers*

Appleton, Bonnie. (2001). *New York/Mid-Atlantic Gardener's Book of Lists*

Burrell, Colston. (1993). *Perennials*

Burrell, Colston. (1993). *Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Perennials*

Burrell, Colston. (1994). *Ferns: Wild Things Make a Comeback in the Garden*

Burrell, Colston. (1995). *Landscaping with Perennials*

Burrell, Colston. (1995). *Woodland Gardens: Shade Gets Chic*

Burrell, Colston. (1997). *A Gardener's Encyclopedia of Wildflowers: An Organic Guide to Choosing and Growing Over 150 Beautiful Wildflowers*

Burrell, Colston. (1997). *The Natural Water Gardens: Pools, Ponds, Marshes & Bogs for Backyards Everywhere*

Burrell, Colston. (1999). *Perennial Combinations: Stunning Combinations That Make Your Garden Look Fantastic Right From The Start*

Burrell, Colston. (2000). *Perennials for Today's Gardens: Better Homes and Gardens*

Burrell, Colston. (2002). *Encyclopedia of Annuals and Perennials*

Burrell, Colston. (2002). *The Sunny Border: Sun-loving Perennials for Season-long Color*

Burrell, Colston. (2005). *Intimate Gardens*

Burrell, Colston. (2006). *Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide*

Burrell, Colston. (2006). *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*

Burrell, Colston. (2009). *Great Natives for Tough Places*

Chalker-Scott, Linda. (2008). *The Informed Gardener*

Chalker-Scott, Linda. (2010). *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again*

Chalker-Scott, Linda. (2015). *How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do*

Darke, Rick. (1996). *Ornamental Grasses*

Darke, Rick. (1999). *Colour Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses*

Darke, Rick. (1999). *Garden Favorites: Designing with Herbs, Climbers, Roses and Grasses*

Darke, Rick. (2007). *The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes*

Darke, Rick. (2014). *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*

Darke, Rick. (2014). *On the High Line: Exploring America's Most Original Urban Park*

Darke, Rick. (2016). *Fallingwater*

Darke, Rick. (2017). *Gardens of the High Line: Elevating the Nature of Modern Landscapes*

Darke, Rick. (2018). *The High Line: Die grüne Ader New Yorks*

DiSabato-Aust, Tracy. (1998). *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*

DiSabato-Aust, Tracy. (2003). *The Well-Designed Mixed Garden: Building Beds and Borders with Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals, and Bulbs*

Mountford, Kent. (2002). *Closed Sea: From the Manasquan to the Mullica, a History of Barnegat Bay*

Mountford, Kent. (2006). *They Bayman: From the Manasquan to the Mullica, a History of Barnegat Bay*

Mountford, Kent. (2007). *John Smith's Chesapeake Voyages, 1607-1609*

Mountford, Kent. (2014). *Silent Maid: A Catboat History*

Gillman, Jeff. (2006). *The Truth About Garden Remedies*

Gillman, Jeff. (2008). *The Truth About Organic Gardening*

Gillman, Jeff. (2009). *How Trees Die: The Past, Present, and Future of Our Forests*

Gillman, Jeff. (2010). *How the Government Got in Your Backyard: Superweeds, Frankenfoods, Lawn Wars, and the (Nonpartisan) Truth About Environmental Policies*

Gillman, Jeff. (2011). *Decoding Gardening Advice: The Science Behind the 100 Most Common Recommendations*

Gilman, Ed. (1997). *Trees for Urban and Suburban Landscapes*

Gilman, Ed. (2001). *Horticopia Professional: Authoring Module*

Gilman, Ed. (2002). *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning*

Gilman, Ed. (2002). *Tree Pruning*

Gilman, Ed. (2004). *Landscape Plants for the Gulf and South Atlantic Coasts: Selection, Establishment, and Maintenance*

Gilman, Ed. (2019). *Best Management Practice: Pruning*

Hugo, Nancy Ross. (1997). *Earth Works: Readings for Backyard Gardeners*

Hugo, Nancy Ross. (2008). *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*

Hugo, Nancy Ross. (2011). *Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees*

Pleasant, Barbara. (2017). *Homegrown Pantry: A Gardener's Guide to Selecting the Best Varieties & Planting the Perfect Amounts for What You Want to Eat Year-Round.*

Raupp, Mike. (2009). *Managing Insects and Mites on Woody Plants: An IPM Approach*

Raupp, Mike. (2016). *Best Management Practices: Integrated Pest Management*

Reilly, Frank. *Smart Yard Care: Big Rewards from Small Investments in Stewardship*

- Available here (requires Adobe flash):
<https://apps.cals.vt.edu/flex/SmartYardCareOrdering/SmartYardCareOrdering.html>
- More information here: <https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/learn/publications/>

Rushing, Felder. NA. *Guide to North Carolina Vegetable Gardening*

Rushing, Felder. NA. *The North Carolina Fruit & Vegetable Book*

Rushing, Felder. NA. *The Virginia Fruit & Vegetable Book*

Rushing, Felder. (1987). *Gardening southern style*

Rushing, Felder. (1998). *Scarecrow Corrugated Display*

Rushing, Felder. (1998). *Scarecrows: Making Harvest Figures and Other Yard Folks*

Rushing, Felder. (1999). *New Junior Garden Book*

Rushing, Felder. (2004). *Can't miss container gardening*

Rushing, Felder. (2004). *Dig, Plant, Grow: A Kid's Guide to Gardening*

Rushing, Felder. (2008). *Guide to Virginia Vegetable Gardening*

Rushing, Felder. (2011). *Slow Gardening: A No-stress Philosophy for All Senses and Seasons*

Rushing, Felder. (2012). *Garden Hearts*

Rushing, Felder. (2013). *Bottle Trees: And the Whimsical Art of Garden Glass*

Tychonievich, Joseph. (2013). *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener: How to Create Unique Vegetables and Flowers*

Tychonievich, Joseph. (2016). *Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style*

Wolk, Art. (2004). *Garden Lunacy: A Growing Concern*

Wolk, Art. (2012). *Bulb Forcing for Beginners and the Seriously Smitten*

Deep Dives and Easy-to-Read CE for EMGs

Under construction

Compiled by Grace Stern, State EMG Coordinator 2024-

Deep Dives (Books)

This portion contains books that provide an intense look at certain aspects of our core topics. They are scientific but contain good enough knowledge to be valuable as a read-through, not just a reference book.

- Borrer and Delong's Introduction to the Study of Insects, 7th edition (2005)
- The Ideal Team Player, Patrick Lencioni
- Jeff Ball's 60-minute Garden
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Deep Dives (Scientific Literature)

This portion contains primary literature that is relevant to EMG functions as horticultural educators. This list includes technical papers on a wide variety of topics, from leadership skills to learning to molecular biology. This is designed to scratch the really technical itch.

- Using Playbooks to Guide Leadership Transitions in Voluntary Groups and Community Organizations. (2020). The Journal of Extension (JOE).
<https://archives.joe.org/joe/2020october/iw3.php>

Entomology Literature

- Aposematic Coloration. Mathieu Joron. Elsevier Science. (2009).
- Dung Beetles Use the Milky Way for Orientation. Marie Dacke et al. Current Biology. (2013).
- Gold bugs and beyond: a review of iridescence and structural colour mechanisms in beetles (Coleoptera). Ainsley E. Seago et al. J. R. Soc. Interface. (2008).
- Phylogenomics resolves the timing and pattern of insect evolution. Bernhard Misof et al. Science.org. (2014).
- Peacock spiders. Madeline B. Girard and John A. Endler. Current Biology. (2014)
- The Phylogeny and Evolutionary History of Arthropods. Gonzalo Giribet and Gregory D. Edgecombe. Current Biology. (2019).
- The First North American Record of the Allium Leafmine. Lawrence E. Barringer et al. Journal of Integrated Pest Management. (2018).

Easy-to-Read CE

This portion contains novel-style books or easily digested technical material.

People, Historical Books, and Memoirs

- The Growing Season, Sara Frey (2020)
- Colossus, Hoover Dam and the Making of the American Century Michael A. Hiltzik (2010)
- "The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit" by Michael Finkel (2017)

Ecology

- Nature Wars, Jim Sterba 2012
- Suburban Safari, Hannah Holmes, 2005
- A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail, Bill Bryson (1997)
- The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think" by Jennifer Ackerman (2020)
- "Birdsong for the Curious Naturalist: Your Guide to Listening" by Donald Kroodsma (2020)
- "A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds" by Scott Weidensaul (2021)

Isabel's Reading Suggestions

Podcasts

- The Plant Report
- In Defense of Plants

Books

Landscaping

- Bill Mollison, *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual* (1988)
- Christian Douglas, *The Food Forward Garden: A Complete Guide to Designing and Growing Edible Landscapes* (2024)
- Erik Ohlsen, *The Regenerative Landscaper: Design and Build Landscapes That Repair the Environment* (2023)
- Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher, *Garden Revolution* (2016)
- Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden* (2014)

Native Plants

- Douglas W. Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* (2009)
- William Cullina, *Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines: A Guide to Using, Growing, and Propagating North American Woody Plants* (2002)

Invasive Species

- *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, Field Guide*

Articles

- Taylor, M.D., and Y. Arakawa. 2012. The effect of seed sowing date on growth and inflorescence size of *Echium simplex*. *Acta Horticulturae* 1014:311-312.
- Taylor, M.D., R. Kreis, and L. Rejto. 2016. Establishing growing substrate pH with compost and limestone and the impact on pH buffering capacity. *HortScience* 51:1153-1158.
- Johnson, L.R., B. Breger, and F. Drummond. 2019. Novel plant–insect interactions in an urban environment: enemies, protectors, and pollinators of invasive knotweeds. *Ecosphere* 10:e02885.

Other Websites/Resources:

- <https://floraofvirginia.org/ia Project>
- <https://www.invasivespeciesva.org/species>
- <https://vnps.org>
- <https://www.ces.ncsu.edu>
- <https://www.shenandoahpermaculture.com>