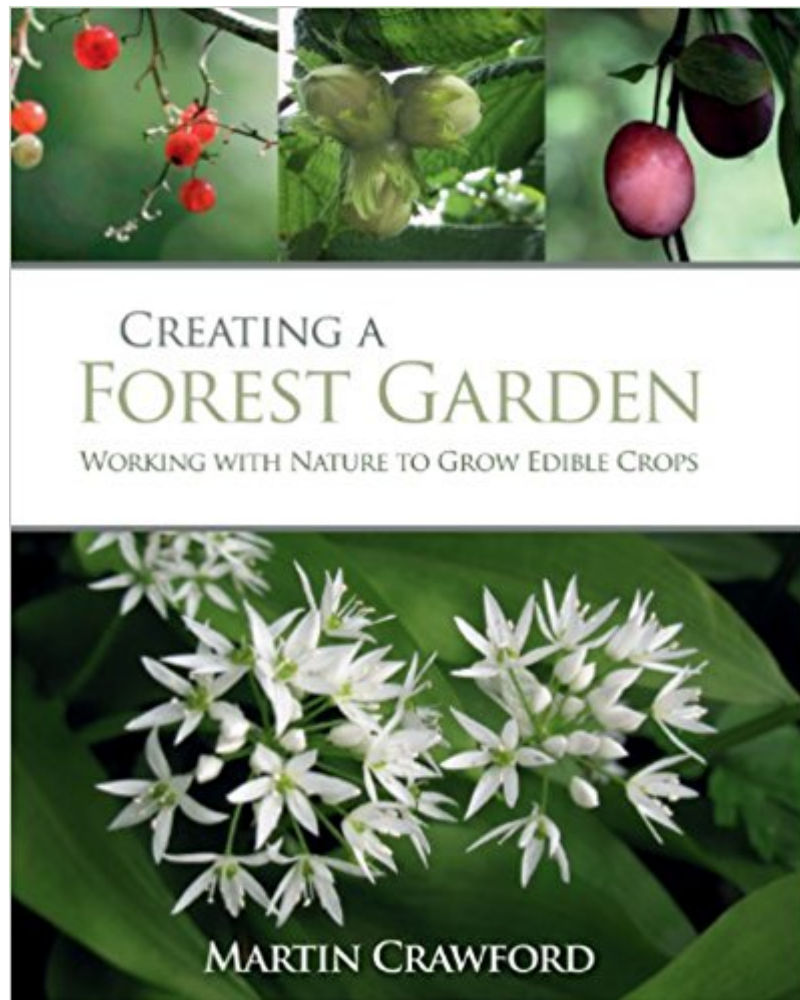




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Creating A Forest Garden: Working With Nature To Grow Edible Crops



Synopsis

Offering inspiration for all gardeners, this book features beautiful color photographs and illustrations throughout, and is divided into two parts. Part One looks at why and how to grow particular crops and how to look after them for maximum health. Part Two features more than 100 perennial edibles in detail, both common and unusual, from rhubarb to skirret and Jerusalem artichoke to nodding onions. This book also provides plenty of cooking tips.

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

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Customer Reviews

“Martin is a true pioneer and his work deserves respect and celebration.”
— Permaculture magazine

Martin Crawford has spent more than 20 years in organic agriculture and horticulture, and is director of the Agroforestry Research Trust, a nonprofit charity that researches temperate agroforestry and all aspects of plant cropping and uses, with a focus on tree, shrub, and perennial crops. The Trust produces several publications and a quarterly journal, and sells plants and seeds. He is the author of several books, including *A Forest Garden Year* and *How to Grow Perennial Vegetables*.

This was a bit of a splurge for me; having known Martin Crawford's name for years, I was really looking forward to seeing his work in print. I must say that the actual book is a bit of a disappointment. I knew that it would be aimed at a UK audience, so that's not a strike against it. In

fact, it joins wonderful works by Patrick Whitefield and John Seymour to round out the picture of British forest gardening. But despite the beautiful photography, the book is neither as practical nor as detailed as Gaia's Garden or Edible Forest Gardens. This book adds very little to what they have already contributed, with the exception of a thoughtful consideration of global climate change and its presumed effect on forest gardening, and a chapter on fungi. More damning, the text is full of typos, and several of the photographs are misplaced and mislabeled. A picture illustrating Oregon grape is actually some sort of currant, for example. Discussions of design are general to the point of frustration; the section on water use says, in essence, "in a drought you'll use more than you think" and then spends two pages on irrigation methods. Again, it's possible that a British climate requires less thought about water than the southeastern U.S., but that sort of generality pervades the book. Save your money for Jacke and Toensmeier.

A very good book with plenty of inspiration for forest gardeners in temperate climates. Martin Crawford is an expert. Gardeners in the UK will especially appreciate this work, though the concepts carry over nicely to North America as well.

This is by far my favorite gardening book...EVER. It has been not only inspiring like a lot of other good books but is so well organized that it is a reference that I find myself going back to time after time. The only thing I would warn any potential purchaser is that the author hails from England so some of the climate points are specific to his region of the world. Other than that this is in my humble opinion the absolute best book on sustainable methods of gardening. It gives such a great breakdown of so many different drought tolerant plants, their light and watering requirements and of a forest garden as a whole.

OMG--the holy grail of Food forest books (this one and a few others) If you don't know anything about Martin Crawford, look up info on him on youtube there are excerpts to actually visiting his garden. This book is a MUST for permaculture or sustainable farming designers and lovers of sustainable, natural gardening. Excellent also for preppers and raw foodists and anyone who seeks autonomy and a PROCESS for growing food naturally without continually having to plant and cultivate once the process is fully underway.

great book

This is an amazing book about forest gardening in Northwestern Europe. It is beautifully illustrated, contains information on hundreds of plants and gives practical information about the process of designing, planting and maintaining a forest garden, background information and even information on the cooking and processing of the food from the garden. Without any doubt the best book on the topic. Although I don't have (yet) a real forest garden, I have used information from the book to transform part of my garden. I must admit I have read some chapters at least 5 times, which I do only with my favourite books. It contains so much useful information and the line drawings illustrate all the principles and results.

Great book on different edible plants for moderate climates

The book does a pretty good job of listing the parts of a forest garden, and giving recommendations for plants for each (and has a good reference section on a wide variety of plants). I learned about a lot of plants I'd never even heard of, which is always a plus. My only real complaint is that some of the full page glossy pictures are VERY poor quality (low contrast, practically black and white). I'm not sure if it's a printing error in my version or not (most of the small pictures look very nice). The problem pictures are almost exclusively the large views of the author's forest garden. Obviously I did not purchase this book for the pictures, but when friends and family ask me what a forest garden is, it is frustrating to not have any decent pictures to show.

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