

Springtime Inspiration
Leasa Sieve, Reference Librarian

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” — Leo Tolstoy

Spring feels even more hopeful than ever this year. I'm cautiously optimistic that as we move through spring and into summer that we will be able to return to a more normal Minnesota routine. As I walked around my yard the other day, I felt excitement for the new season that is upon us. If you are also looking forward to getting outdoors and planting your garden, let me tell you about some new gardening books that have arrived at the library recently.

As you are planning your 2021 garden, you may be thinking about planting more plants native to the Midwest. “Midwest Native Plant Primer: 225 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden” by Alan Branhagen (635.9517 Branhag), has a wealth of information about plants that in addition to being native to our area, and pleasing to look at, also attract the pollinators we need, support all kinds of wildlife, and cut down on maintenance. I liked this quote from the book regarding planting things that are native to your area, “They grew without irrigation, they grew without hoes, they grew without fertilization, pesticides, or Lowes.”

Along the same lines... “Garden Alchemy: 80 Recipes and Concoctions for Organic Fertilizers, Plant Elixirs, Potting Mixes, Pest Deterrents, and More” by Stephanie Rose (635.04 Rose) starts out by helping you determine what kind of soil you have and goes from there to help you naturally enrich your soil and care for your garden organically with concoctions you mix up yourself.

“No-Till Organic Vegetable Garden: How to Start and Run a Profitable Market Garden That Builds Health in Soil, Crops and Communities” by Daniel Mays (635.0484 Mays) has everything you need to get started with the no-till method of gardening. This how-to book will help you improve your gardening practices to become more sustainable and regenerative.

Maybe you are ready to rebel a little and try something entirely new in your garden this summer. Go against the “rules” and plant what you love, is the message in “Fearless Gardening: Be Bold, Break the Rules, Grow What You Love” by Loree Bohl (712 Bohl). Loree says “Experiment, play, kill plants. Being brave is integral to gardening fearlessly. Do all these things frequently, deliberately, passionately.”

Coming Soon: “First Time Gardener: Growing Plants and Flowers: All the Know-How You Need to Plant and Tend Outdoor Areas Using Eco-Friendly Methods” by Sean McManus.

The above are just a few of the newest gardening titles at the library, stop in and browse the whole gardening section for spring inspiration. Happy Spring!