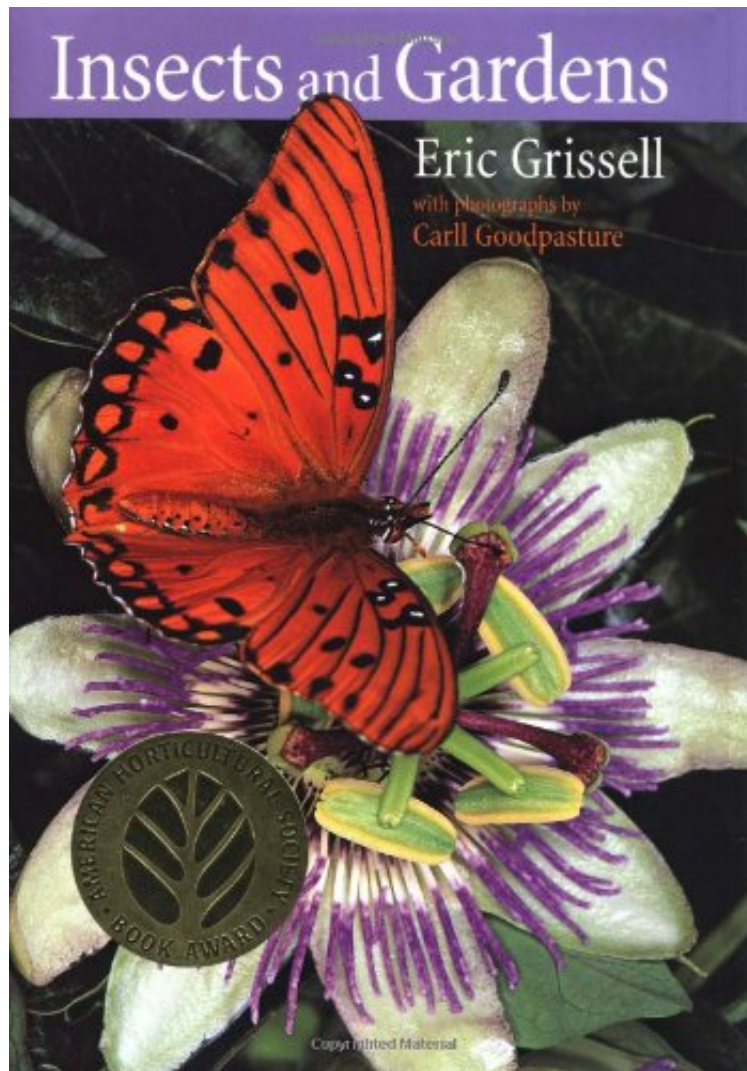


[Ebook free] Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology

Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology

Eric Grissell

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Eric Grissell : Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. disappointed By fellow humani was hoping for informative points on how to begin and maintain a balanced garden that was welcoming to a variety of insects. however, the book seems mainly to be a long winded complaint about nameless books and gardeners who supposedly make no consideration of garden ecology beyond wanting to attract adult butterflies. this book does contain some good information, but much of the content is an uncomfortable mix of too studious or too basic. a sizeable portion of the information either seems to be stating the obvious, or just isn't very usable. humour was probably intended, but i found the writing to be a little

crotchety and condescending. it has its merits, and aspects of it are interesting, but overall i found it tedious and unconstructive.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Help for Any GardenerBy Lisa SheaInsects and Gardens by Eric Grissell is a solid primer on how to help your garden grow the natural way. It helps you keep track of which insects assist your plants, and which ones are going to cause trouble.The book starts with the basics - just what is an insect? What are the different types, and how do you tell them apart? There are gorgeous photos here, which help you really understand what is being explained.Then we get on into the garden-care section. the book provides great advice. For example buying ladybugs in a box, as fun as it might seem, is apparently not very helpful - they tend to all just try to "fly home" and leave your garden the way it was.We learn about habitat diversity - by planning out the garden so that we have a natural habitat that encourages "good" bugs, we let the local, natural beneficial bugs take care of any problems they find. By removing stagnant water, we help to minimize the problem of mosquitoes.There is a lot of practical advice. For example, sure you want to plant flowers that butterflies love to eat. However, if you really want butterflies around, you need to plant flowers that their LARVAE will eat so the butterflies stay and lay their eggs here.There's even a section about stings and bites, to help you manage any accidental encounters.Well recommended!2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The insect role in garden ecologyBy SuzyQThis book is written from a gardener's perspective. However, it might be valuable reading for the entomologist, the ecologist, the environmentalist and the botanist. Insects are considered the most dominant animal in terms of biomass, outweighing and outnumbering humans by 600% and more than 600%, respectively. Some of the primary functions performed in the garden by insects include pollination (vital to the production of the majority of plants of importance to man, which keep us alive), herbivory (eating plants; and plant and animal decomposition), and balancing garden ecology. In the section on interactions between insects and plants, we learn how roots (and tubers,corms, bulbs and rhizomes), crowns, stems, branches, shoots, trunks, leaves, flowers and buds, and seed, pod and fruits can be attacked by insects. Lastly, the author introduces us to a garden in balance where the beneficial insects (pollinators and predators) keep the herbivores in balance. To create this balance, one needs to create diversity in the garden--diversity of plants and of animals, including insects, keeping in mind that some insects can have both beneficial and detrimental activities in our gardens. And, when the gardener intervenes to prevent insect destruction of a plant or plants, it is essential that the treatment be the least toxic substance that works, that it is applied at the best time in the life cycle of the insect, that it is applied in the best fashion to achieve the greatest success and that it does not harm other insects (especially beneficials) or the environment.

Professional entomologist and amateur gardener Eric Grissell suggests that it might be time to declare a truce with the insects in our lives. With a sound basis in science and a practical grounding in gardening experience, Grissell introduces the reader to the role of insects in garden ecology. His insightful account of insect biology is supported by gorgeous photographs, which reveal a captivating beauty and illustrate the vital interdependence between insects and plants. Now available in paperback, this book will be loved by anyone seeking a greater appreciation and understanding of these often-maligned garden visitors.

From Library JournalThis is a thorough introduction to the biology and ecology of insects commonly found in North American gardens, as well as a guide to the principles of ecologically-sound gardening. Grissell, a research entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, emphasizes that insects, as well as other invertebrates, play key roles in maintaining a garden's ecological balance; furthermore, he advocates that gardens be managed as balanced, biologically diverse "naturalistic" systems, since they are, for the gardener, more enjoyable and easier to maintain. The text is lengthy but engaging, and a very extensive list of additional readings is provided. The accompanying close-up of insects and other creatures and other photographs are beautifully composed and illustrate the text well. A good complement to other natural gardening books, such as *Natural Gardening*, edited by John K. Boring and others (Time-Life, 1996); highly recommended for all gardening collections. Brian Lym, City Coll. Lib. of San Francisco Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistGardeners may love butterflies, but Grissell stresses a far more encompassing point of view--one that welcomes myriad insects into our cultivated spaces. With a captivating blend of humor and candor, this research entomologist describes in detail the insect orders residing in our gardens and their habits. Who would have guessed that female earwigs protect their eggs until they hatch? Next, Grissell looks at ecological aspects of gardening as he puts forth an erudite overview of the balance and interactions between plants and insects. Maintaining a delightfully readable style, Grissell concludes with an engagingly thought-provoking section devoted to relationships between insects and humans. Goodpasture's fine photographs befit Grissell's effervescent treatise; proposing a laissez-faire attitude that promises to have gardeners with an "us and them" mentality (and a dependence upon chemicals to kill insects) finding new ways of thinking about the tiny and essential critters found ambling about on leaves or creeping about the soil. Alice JoyceCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved An excellent general account of these interesting and useful organisms...Profusely illustrated with excellent photographs. -- Choice, May 2002I can say without reservation that this should be required reading . . . for everyone interested in the world around them. -- Susan Banks, Pittsburgh Post Gazette, February 9, 2002If I had to live on a

desert island with only ten books, [title] would be one of them. -- Pat Pawlowski, California Garden, May - June 2002
Insects and Gardens is destined to become a classic of garden literature. -- Deborah Brown, Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN, December 20, 2001
Insects and Gardens provides science readers with an excellent survey. Highly recommended. -- The Bookwatch, March 2002
This is an important book indeed, with the potential to become a classic. -- Ethel Fried, Journal Inquirer, Manchester, CT, February 28, 2002
[Eric Grissell] certainly knows his subject. He has a gift for presenting scientific ideas in an engaging and understandable way. -- HortIdeas, April 2002