

# Bringing a Garden to Life

Carol Williams



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"Gardeners step into the world of imagination as soon as they begin to garden. They cannot plant a dry seed without awareness of the flame of life inside it, or prune a bare branch without sensing clustered blossoms and leaves."

In the literature of gardening there are many how-to books and nearly an equal number of philosophical essays. Here is a book that is both. Carol Williams elucidates with elegant simplicity the basic processes of gardening and the handling of plants. She also eloquently demonstrates how in bringing a garden to life, the gardener, too, comes to life. Not just the finished garden, but gardening itself, is revealed as a source of delight and a profound awakening to nature.

With its engaging mixture of step-by-step instruction, essay, story, and poetry, **Bringing a Garden to Life** addresses both the compelling mysteries and the down-to-earth practicalities of everyday gardening:

discovering a place and envisioning your garden the alchemy of making fertile soil the wonders and challenges of starting with seeds weeding--or not the flowering year fresh greens for dinner gardening with and around trees tools--hoes, books, and philosophy and much more

From mapping a garden and planting a lettuce seed, to feeding old perennial borders and pruning fruit trees, this book tells not just how but why, and vividly evokes the interest and pleasure of doing the job. Gardening beginners will be encouraged to take their first steps, while expert gardeners will find new sources of joy in their gardens. The author shares the practical wisdom of her own rich gardening experience and invokes the golden tradition of poets and philosophers throughout history who have turned to their gardens to read the book of nature.

With special sections on annuals, perennials, bulbs, vegetable and herb gardening, pruning, composting, transplanting, and much more, **Bringing a Garden to Life** is an illuminating vision, not just of growing things, but of being in the world; not just of planting, but of being renewed.



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