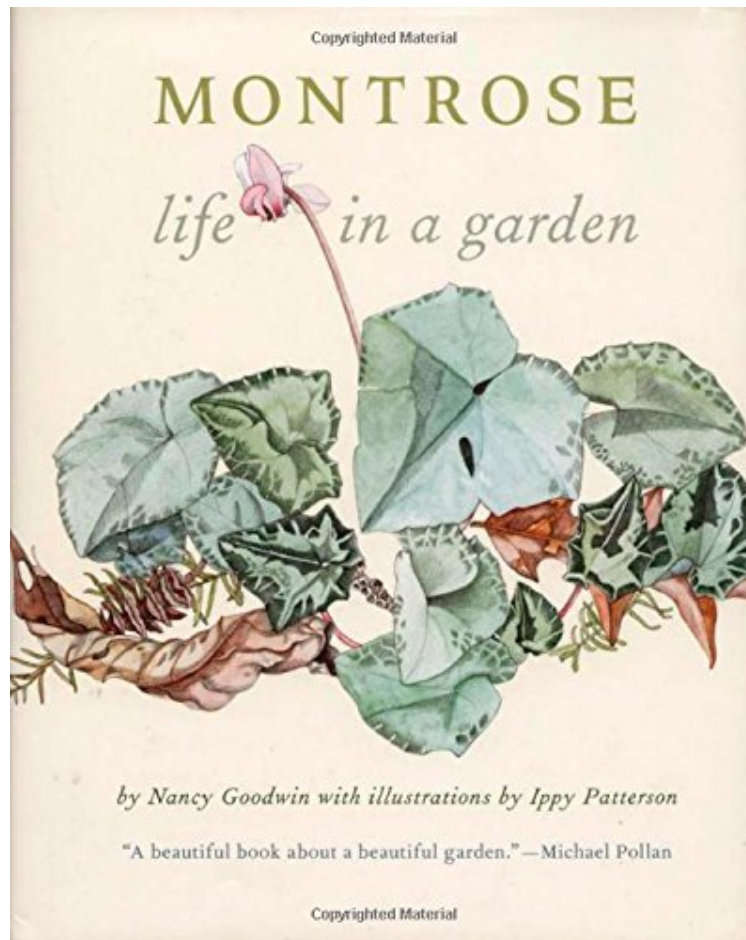


[FREE] Montrose: Life in a Garden

## Montrose: Life in a Garden

*Nancy Goodwin*

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**Nancy Goodwin : Montrose: Life in a Garden** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Montrose: Life in a Garden:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Lovely Inspiring - Not a How-to BookBy Catherine BargarThis is the perfect garden book to curl up with on a cold winter's day, when you can't actually do anything in your own garden except dream. The biggest part of its charm for me is the lovely watercolor/botanical illustrations that are generously scattered throughout; the book itself is beautifully produced, with high quality paper attractice layout font.Nancy Goodwin's writing is in a very simple, narrative style, and while it doesn't quite make the category of great garden writing, it certainly provides a pleasant picture of her amazing accomplishments in the gardens she created at Montrose, in North Carolina. She is remarkable in her ability to note both the minute details of an individual plant's growth and habit and the broad, sweeping overall design of a very complex estate.This book would make an excellent gift for literate gardeners. Note that it is not a how-to gardening book - no directions for creating your own garden paradise - although there is certainly wisdom to be gleaned as Goodwin takes you through a year in her Southern

garden. No glossy photos either, just the far more artistic and soothing softly done sketches watercolors of individual plants. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Montrose: Life in a Garden* By Loyce C. McKenzie I visited Montrose at a time when Nancy Goodwin was writing the book. She's great, the garden is great, and the book captured the true essence of the garden and the author's spirit and wide range of knowledge. And the drawings were the perfect complement. Actually, this is the third purchase I've made of this book, the last two for gifts. I received my copy, right off the press, one winter when I was couch-bound with a broken ankle and could not sleep very well. I read it through four times in a row. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By George Wilson Like being there for the creation of a great work of art.. beautiful book!

Something is blooming every day of the year in the renowned gardens at Montrose, Nancy Goodwin's nineteenth-century property in historic Hillsborough, North Carolina. Since moving to Montrose with her husband Craufurd in 1977, Goodwin has transformed more than twenty acres into an extraordinary complex of interlocking gardens that come in and out of focus as the seasons overlap and change. Beautifully written and illustrated, *Montrose: Life in a Garden* is Goodwin's affectionate biography of her gardens, recounting how and why each section was developed over the years, including the Dianthus Walk, Nandinaland, Hellebore Slope, Mother-in-Law Walk, Snowdrop Woods, and Jos Bed. It is also a meticulous month-by-month chronicle of a specific year in these gardens—a year that saw a punishing drought that threatened Goodwin's no-irrigation policy, a damaging December ice storm, and the beginnings of a plan to preserve Montrose in the future. Working on her knees for long days throughout the year, Nancy Goodwin always has a vision of how her gardens will appear in twelve months or in twelve years. She will spend weeks, for instance, planting hundreds of snow drops along a woody path in order to enjoy a fleeting week of exquisite beauty in coming years. She never puts anything into the ground without imagining what form, color, and texture it will add to a bed. With tireless patience and unflagging optimism, Goodwin will wait years to see a single plant bloom. Following Goodwin's activities throughout the year, readers will learn the fundamentals of maintaining a four-season garden in Zone 7 in the South. Award-winning garden illustrator Ippy Patterson has provided more than 160 lavish illustrations of the gardens at Montrose and these meticulously detailed drawings appear throughout the book.

From Publishers Weekly It takes a committed gardener to characterize a year of unseasonable killing frost, brutal summer heat and drought, and a destructive ice storm as "the happiest year of my life." In this chronicle of tasks and events at Montrose, her historic North Carolina home, Goodwin reveals herself to be as dedicated as she is talented. Montrose became widely recognized during the 10 years Goodwin ran a successful nursery business there and she remains known as much for her personal skill and knowledge as for the series of themed gardens she created and tends on its 61 acres. Each chapter covers one month, interspersing closely observed descriptions of the appearance, habit and care of individual plants with anecdotes about the doings of her small staff, her encouraging husband, their friends and visitors, and the cats she considers "perfect garden companions." These genteel conversations reflect Goodwin's charm, erudition and unconventional approach. For example, while most garden writers begin by drawing up detailed plans, Goodwin goes directly to the soil and often trusts nature to take its course. Patterson's illustrations are impeccably wrought and beautifully positioned on the page, underscoring shifts in focus from intimate views of tiny flowers to broad visions of the landscape. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In her introduction, historian Maureen Quilligan deliberately describes her neighbor, Nancy Goodwin, as a practitioner of the art of gardening. And Quilligan is right to acknowledge Goodwin's artistry, for the gardens she has created at Montrose, a nineteenth-century estate in the North Carolina Piedmont, are legendary examples of her dedicated understanding of the ways of the natural world. Goodwin limns a year in her classic garden, recounting month by month the steps she and her husband took, first as caretakers of an already-established and renowned garden, and then the plans they made to make it not only something of their own but also a treasure that would be preserved for posterity. Enlisting the talents of artist Patterson, whose pen-and-ink illustrations of vistas and individual plants communicate the detail and personality of Goodwin's unique gardening talents as accurately as any photograph could, Goodwin has supplied gardeners everywhere with a treasure to behold and a standard to revere. Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. *Montrose: Life in a Garden* is a beautifully written account of the joys and trials of gardening through all four seasons in a demanding climate; but even more, it illuminates a life's work that draws on the deepest levels of creative imagination. Nancy Goodwin likens the evolution of her garden to the unfolding of a visual symphony—a living and constantly changing composition that has grown seamlessly from her richly textured life at Montrose. Her descriptions of work in the garden and her vivid plant portraits are sympathetically enhanced by Ippy Patterson's lovely illustrations. May Brawley Hill, author of *Grandmothers Garden: The Old-Fashioned American Garden, 1865-1915* and *On Foreign Soil: American Gardeners Abroad*