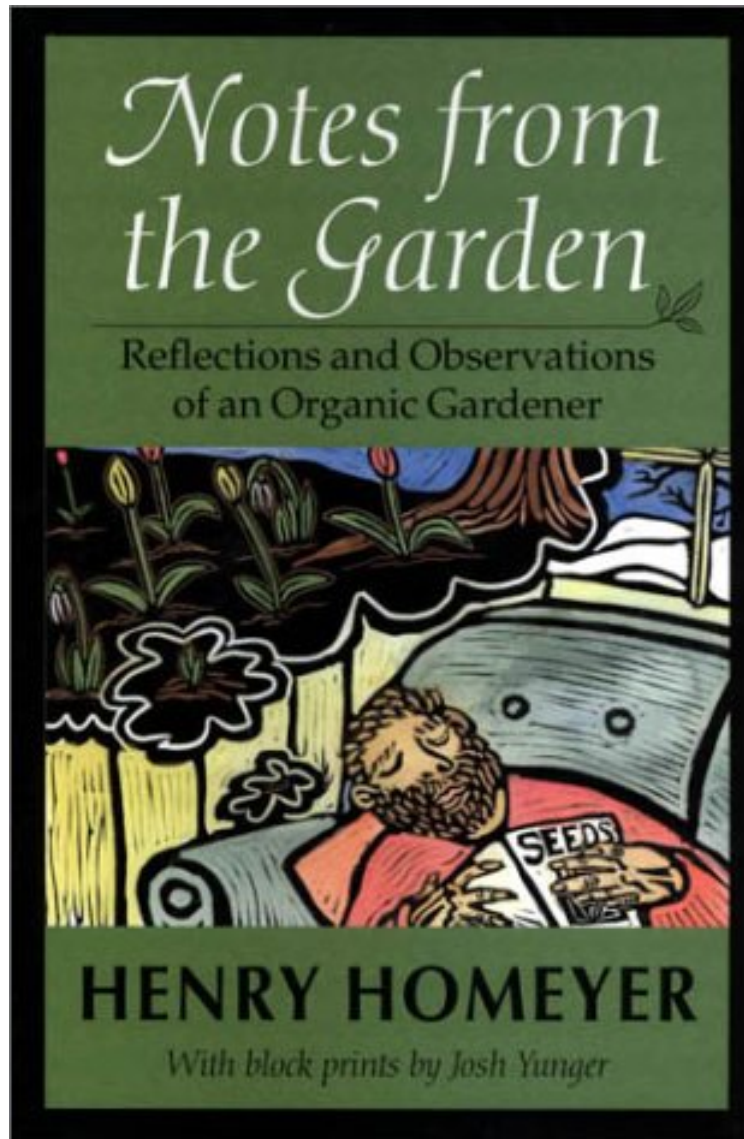


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Notes from the Garden: Reflections and Observations of an Organic Gardener

Henry Homeyer

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Henry Homeyer : Notes from the Garden: Reflections and Observations of an Organic Gardener before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Notes from the Garden: Reflections and Observations of an Organic Gardener:

A hands-on gardener, Henry Homeyer gives practical advice on how to garden -- whether building a hot box, transplanting peonies, defeating the deer, planting ginseng, growing lady's slipper orchids and shiitake mushrooms, or keeping the birds out of the berry bushes. Each month covers a range of topics relevant to the season: starting seedlings, edging and mulching, gardening with children, getting rid of invasive plants, pruning, putting the garden to bed, growing houseplants. His 72 short reflections and observations will interest amateur, dedicated, and armchair gardeners alike, especially those living in zones 3-5, the climatic belt that includes New England and runs across southern Canada and west to the Rockies. Homeyer grew up in the 1950s learning about organic gardening from a grandfather who used manure tea and compost, not 10-10-10, herbicides, and DDT. For him, organic gardening is not a political position, but a commonsense approach to having the best soil and the healthiest plants. An unusual feature is Homeyer's interviews with other gardeners. Meet Joe Mooney, the aging wizard of turf at Fenway Park. Spend an afternoon in the garden with Jamaica Kincaid. Learn more about the White House gardens from chief horticulturist Dale Haney. Or marvel at Marguerite Tewksbury, an 85-year-old organic gardener who single-handedly runs a farm stand, drives her 1950 Ford Ferguson tractor, and weeds her 6,000-square-foot vegetable patch with a full-sized rototiller.

From Booklist With the plainspoken, straightforward manner for which New Englanders are famous, Homeyer espouses the philosophy and practices of organic gardening: no insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, or chemical fertilizers should ever make their way into the earth or onto a plant. For Homeyer, such customs reflect not only a respect for the environment but a reverence for the gardening traditions imparted to him first at his grandfather's knee and then honed through the University of New Hampshire Master Gardener programs. Starting with March and progressing through the year in monthly chapters, Homeyer culls the best of his weekly newspaper gardening columns to offer advice on everything from starting seedlings to growing garlic, all from an organic-gardening approach. Along the way, he introduces fellow organic gardeners: some locally infamous, such as 85-year-old Marguerite Tewksbury; others nationally famous, such as renowned garden author Jamaica Kincaid. Spare, succinct, and sincere, Homeyer's guidance is down-home friendly and unthreatening, warm and wise. Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "There's something for nearly every gardener here....[Homeyer's] writing is clear and commonsensical and sometimes whimsical. He sounds like the guy next door." From the Publisher 7 x 10 trim. 10 photos, 3 maps, 33 block prints