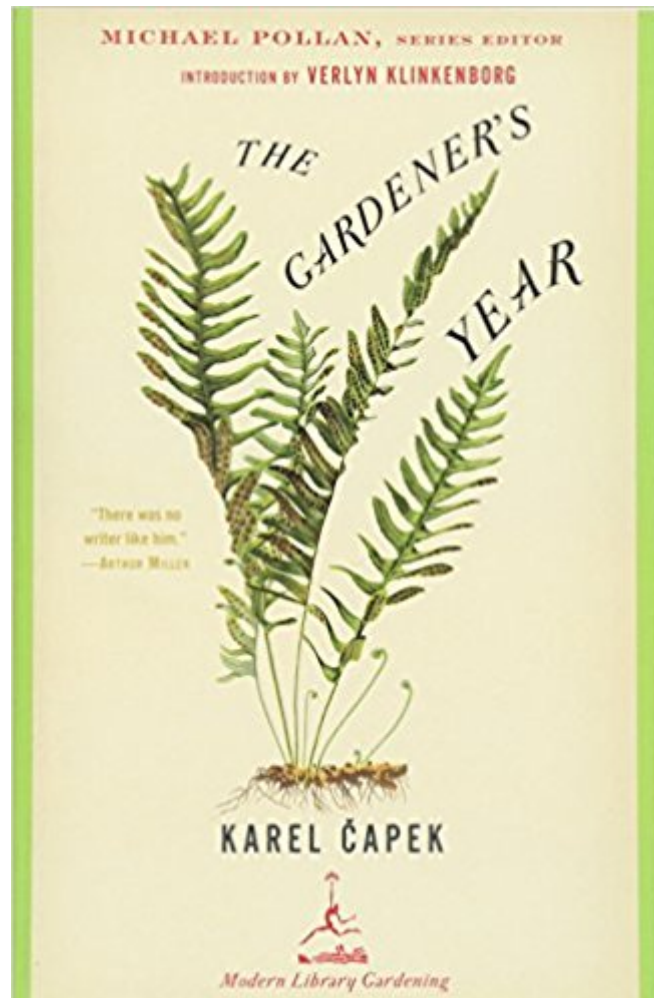




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# The Gardener's Year (Modern Library Gardening)



## Synopsis

From the internationally acclaimed Czech writer Karel Capek comes this beautifully written and marvelously apt account of the trials and tribulations of the gardener's life. First published in Prague in 1929, *The Gardener's Year* combines a richly comic portrait of life in the garden, narrated month by month, with a series of delightful illustrations by the author's older brother and collaborator, Josef. Capek's gardeners are all too human, despite their lofty aspirations—they often look the fool, whether they be found sopping wet, victims of the cobra-like water hose, or hunched over, hands immersed in the soil, "presenting their rumps to the splendid azure sky." In their repeated folly, Capek gives us not only cause for laughter but also, in the end, "testimony of the imperishable and miraculous optimism of the human race." This Modern Library edition is published with a new Introduction by Verlyn Klinkenborg, a New York Times editorialist and the author of *Making Hay* and *The Last Fine Time*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"There was no writer like him." —Arthur Miller  
"A charming and loving chronicle of the Czechoslovak playwright's backyard garden in Prague. . . . [A] funny but meaty little book." —The New York Times  
"Capek's work has lost nothing of its freshness and luster." —The New York Times Book Review

Text: English, Czech (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I bought this book for a friend, as a gift upon her achieving Master Gardener certification. I expected something a bit different, a bit more practical, perhaps, but after leafing through the pages, I read the entire book before I gave it to her. Written by the man known to most of us as a European author of the early 20th century on more weighty subjects, this man's witty description of himself as the sometimes manic master of his small domestic garden both amuses and somehow comforts those of us who share his enthusiasm. I laughed long and loudly at Capek's description of what ensued from his planting of the seeds from just one packet, at the many dozens of little plants in little pots, all of which became bigger and bigger, and had to be taken outdoors, finally, to find places in a tiny garden patch. This is a short book, with short chapters, just right for picking up in odd moments during the winter months when we are only dreaming about the coming of gardening season once again.

I love this book! Hysterical! Hard to believe it was written nearly a century ago. I still encounter the same garden issues today. I may be biased as I have Czech grandparents. I am so glad my friend introduced me to Karel. I've gotten other books he's written and enjoy them as well. I can imagine reading this book over and over. At least once a year.

This little book seems to be old. Written before WWII. But it still charming and will be joy and also source of good information.

Sweet little book that reminds you to realign your thoughts while in the garden. God is everywhere present, and fills all things!

I expected clever writing.

A little light reading for the gardener with a healthy sense of humor: a fun read about gardening, gardeners and their foibles!

This is the best book about gardeners I know of. With grace and humor, this book delightfully explores the glories and foibles of serious amateur gardeners. Any garden nut who reads this book

without laughing and almost crying over this inciteful outing of the gardener's soul is a callous person indeed.

This is a wonderful series and Karel Capek's little stories are enjoyably sweet. I am buying all the books in the series.

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