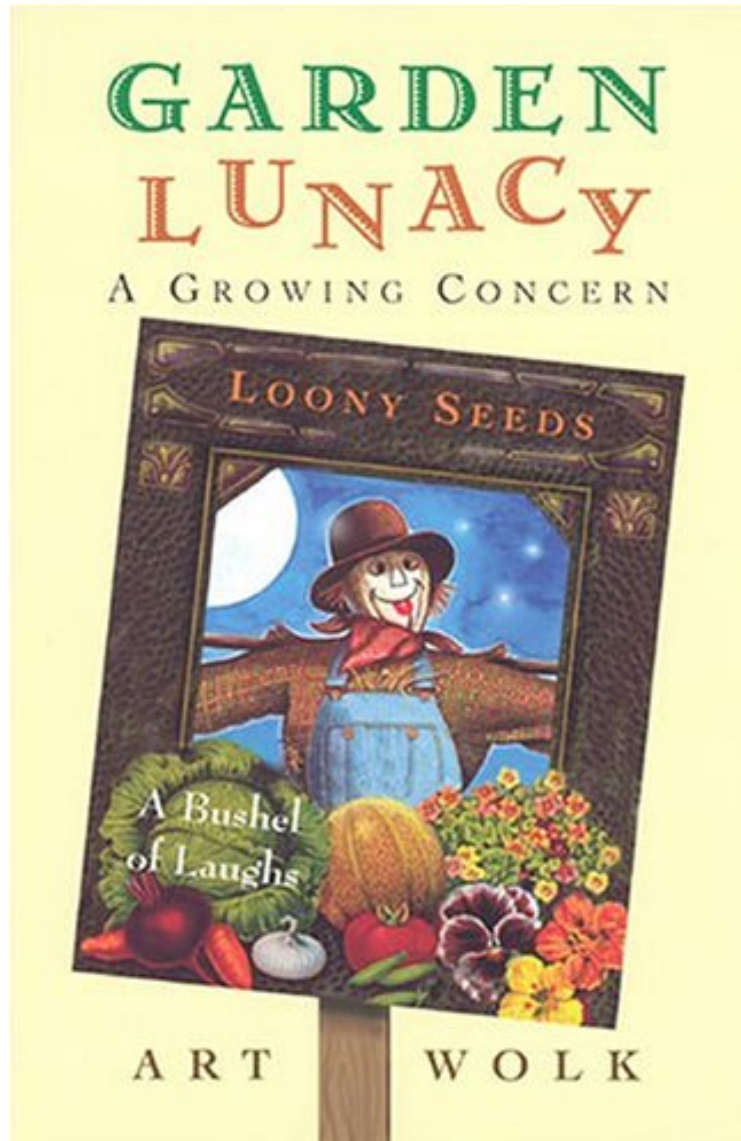


Garden Lunacy: A Growing Concern

Art Wolk

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Art Wolk : Garden Lunacy: A Growing Concern before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Garden Lunacy: A Growing Concern:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Garden LunacyBy M. Nancy ChambersHilarious! Garden Lunacy: A Growing ConcernThis book is an enjoyable read for anyone who gardens. I laughed all through the book and bought a copy for my girlfriend, another avid gardener.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. You'll Never See The Flower Show The Same Way AgainBy Barbara ArnoldiniI've been attending the Philadelphia Flower Show for many

years. From this day on, after finishing *Garden Lunacy*, I'll see the exhibits through an entirely different set of eyes. The way Art Wolk describes the frenzied pace and crazy antics associated with entering pots for judging in the flower show is hilarious. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Very Funny By Kate Copsey

Garden Lunacy is not a typical gardening book. The book is less about the plants, and more about the gardener, or as Art Wolk puts it 'the thing at the wooden end of the shovel'. The name Art Wolk is perhaps familiar to many people, specifically those who attend the Philadelphia Flower Show. Art has won many Blue Ribbons at the show as well as Best in Show. However, he also has a very witty style of writing about his fellow gardening enthusiasts. Tales of travel problems in a late snowstorm with a car full of plants, an apartment overflowing with seedlings or plants, and a marijuana plant carefully being tended by a gardener in a public garden. These, and other logistical nightmares of the horticulturalist, fill the chapters. Of particular note is the area regarding a Gardener/Non-Gardener translation section that will help to clear up many of those misunderstood signals that pass between the two identities, not to mention bring a nod and a smile to many of us who have 'been there, done that'. The book is indeed a wonderful remedy to help pass those rather tedious days of late winter when it is too early to dig, or the dog days of summer when it is too hot and humid to dig.

Garden Lunacy: A Growing Concern is a dead-on, laugh-out-loud look at the world of gardening, especially the world between each gardener's ears. The author pokes fun at the way they think, their odd habits, skewed view of the universe, and their inevitable confrontations with what the author calls, the "other human sub-species," namely, non-gardeners. In a continuous stream of colorful scenes, you'll be taken into a world inhabited by gardeners of all levels, from non-gardening "gardeners" to eccentric, covetous, and compulsive gardeners. Most of all, you'll burst out laughing as Art Wolk shares his views on horticulture and describes his own oddball behavior as an award-winning writer, gardener, lecturer, photographer, and flower show exhibitor. From his vantage point as a lifelong gardener and horticultural voyeur, he gives gardeners an unforgettably accurate look at their domain. *Garden Lunacy* is the perfect gift for gardeners of all levels of experience and looniness.

"Award-winning New Jersey writer, lecturer, and photographer Art Wolk has revealed all in *Garden Lunacy*. If you hunger for garden humor, or know someone who does, join him as he light-heartedly tiptoes through the tulips to bring us his own brand of horticultural histrionics. Never a dull moment." *Horticulture Magazine*....."Gardeners will laugh as they recognize themselves, but they will also be comforted by the fact that there are people out there who are even more obsessive than they are. A true pleasure." *Library Journal*....."I thoroughly enjoyed *Garden Lunacy*!" Fred Roberts, Director of Longwood Gardens....."Art Wolk is the Dave Barry of garden writing. Elvin McDonald, author of more than 50 garden books....."The funniest book on gardening and gardeners in years." *The Reporter.com*....."A must-read." Kate Jerome, National Gardening Association....."Deftly amusing...utterly irreverent...sharp-tongued wit and humor." *Midwest Book*"*Garden Lunacy* offers laughter to buck up the reader's spirits. We need more Art Wols to serve as a lightning rod for our plant obsession and also to sooth our gardening discontents." Dr. William Scheick, Professor of English Literature, University of Texas at Austin (Choice Award winner for Outstanding Academic Book, Pushcart Prize winner, and Center for Humanities Research prize winner)....."It's not that Art Wolk makes me laugh (which he does, repeatedly), and it's not that he is a great gardener (which he is, having won the Grand Sweepstakes at the always amazing Philadelphia Flower Show). The reason you should be the first in your group to read *Garden Lunacy* is that Art's stories document and poke gentle fun at the foibles we gardeners hate to admit." Nellie Neal, National Gardening Association --Author

From the Publisher *Garden Lunacy* is a hysterical book that has received praise from every horticultural institution, periodical, and garden writer that's reviewed it. What this means is that *Garden Lunacy* is an ideal, high-quality gift for any gardener in your life ... including yourself! Here are just a few of the reviews. "Art Wolk is the Dave Barry of garden writing." Elvin McDonald, author of more than 50 garden books "Gardening might be fraught with frustrations, weeds and woodchucks, but Art Wolk proves that a razor sharp sense of humor is the tool that puts it all in perspective." Tovah Martin author of *Tasha Tudors Garden* and *A Time To Blossom* "Its time to take a break from serious garden books and have a good laugh. *Garden Lunacy* unmaskes the world of gardening and pulls no punches." Jane Pepper, President, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and author of *Jane Peppers Garden* In this world where we find ourselves having to be too serious too often, it is wonderful to find an outlet through laughter, especially when the topic is one so close to our hearts gardening! We have thoroughly enjoyed this book! It would make a terrific gift for a gardening friend! Brent Heath and Becky Heath, authors of *Daffodils for American Gardens* and *Tulips for American Gardens*, and owners of Brent and Becky's Bulbs "It's not that Art Wolk makes me laugh (which he does, repeatedly), and it's not that he is a great gardener (which he is, having won the Grand Sweepstakes at the always amazing Philadelphia Flower Show). The reason you should be the first in your group to read *Garden Lunacy* is that Art's stories document and poke gentle fun at the foibles we gardeners hate to admit. Art writes about our common experiences with humor and insight worth quoting. You'll find yourself and your gardening friends in his tales, and you'll want to be the first one to point them out to everyone." Nellie Neal, (for National Gardening Association) garden book author and radio host known as "GardenMama" Lest gardeners ever take themselves too seriously, *Garden*

Lunacy: A Growing Concern by Art Wolk will set them straight! Through personal anecdotes and offbeat observations, Wolk, a multi-talented garden writer and lecturer, takes a light-hearted look at the sometimes-wacky world of gardening. He delves into the differences between gardeners and non-gardeners, the competitiveness of flower shows, dealing with garden pests, and more. American Horticultural Society "What an enjoyable read! Garden Lunacy exposes the arcane world of plant nuts and gardening addicts to the familiar light of laughter. A must read for the afflicted and their enablers." Liz Ball, author of Pennsylvania Gardeners Guide Garden writer and lecturer Wolk has written an amusing collection of essays that pokes fun at the compulsive world of gardeners. He takes a fascinating look at flower shows, detailing the vast amounts of time, expertise, and money involved for those who compete, as well as the many opportunities for disaster to strike unwary competitors. Readers also learn about the process of filming garden segments for television and the time and effort involved in shooting photographs for gardening magazines. Wolk's list of movies with horticultural errors is especially fun. Gardeners will laugh as they recognize themselves, but they will also be comforted by the fact that there are people out there who are even more obsessive than they are. A true pleasure. Library Journal "I loved the Len Taylor story in Garden Lunacy." Alex Trebek, host of the TV show Jeopardy! "Reading this book, and continuously chuckling while doing so, is the equivalent of sharing treasured experiences with a wonderful friend." Patricia A. Taylor (garden book author), for The Times "Put some humor into your humble gardening lives. Wolk's book is a real hoot in a Dave Barry-like tradition. It is a must read, especially when you are taking life too seriously. Relax, take a break from your gardening and other chores, and you are guaranteed many hearty laughs." George Graine, Newsletter of the Virginia Master Gardener Association "Art Wolk has a very witty style of writing about his fellow gardening enthusiasts. Garden Lunacy: A Growing Concern is filled with tales -- of travel problems in a late snowstorm with a car full of plants, an apartment overflowing with seedlings or plants, and [someone] carefully tending a marijuana plant in a public garden. Of particular note is a gardener to non-gardener translation section. This should help clear up many of those misunderstood signals between the two -- not to mention bring a nod and a smile to many of us who have "been there, done that." The book is indeed a wonderful remedy..." Kate Copsy Fauquier-Times Democrat "I made the mistake of beginning Art Wolk's Garden Lunacy at the tail end of a very long day. The first sentence pulled me through a gate and, like Alice in Wonderland, I fell right into the rabbit hole never once considering how I'd get out again. A mad tea-party of a book, Art Wolk led me down the garden path and through the looking-glass; I could neither stop reading nor laughing at myself." Marcia Tate, Photojournalist, Garden Writers Association member "As I giggled my way through Garden Lunacy, I recognized descriptions of my many gardener friends whose behavior around plants is admittedly a little odd. His diagnoses though hilarious, don't apply to me of course! A must read are Arts movie reviews based on horticulture in film. You'll never watch movies the same way again." Ellen Spector Platt, author and lecturer on horticulture About the Author Art Wolk is an award-winning writer, lecturer, photographer, and Grand Sweepstakes winner at the famed Philadelphia Flower Show. He infuses his writings and lectures with a combination of horticultural expertise and sharp sense of humor. Indeed, world-renowned garden writer Elvin McDonald describes his as "the Dave Barry of garden writing." Wolk has appeared on the Discovery Channel and the Home and Garden TV Network, nationwide radio (including NPR), and has lectured at such prominent institutions as Longwood Gardens, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the Scott Arboretum. His magazine articles have appeared in Fine Gardening, Better Homes and Gardens, Green Scene, Green Prints, and other publications. In 1991 Wolk founded, and for nine years managed, a children's garden in New Jersey. In 1999 he received the prestigious Quill and Trowel Award from the Garden Writers Association for a magazine article he wrote about the garden.