

**CONVERSATIONS ON  
GARDENING, WITH  
INCIDENTAL REMARKS  
ON NATURAL HISTORY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649555888

Conversations on Gardening, with Incidental Remarks on Natural History by Asa Gray

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

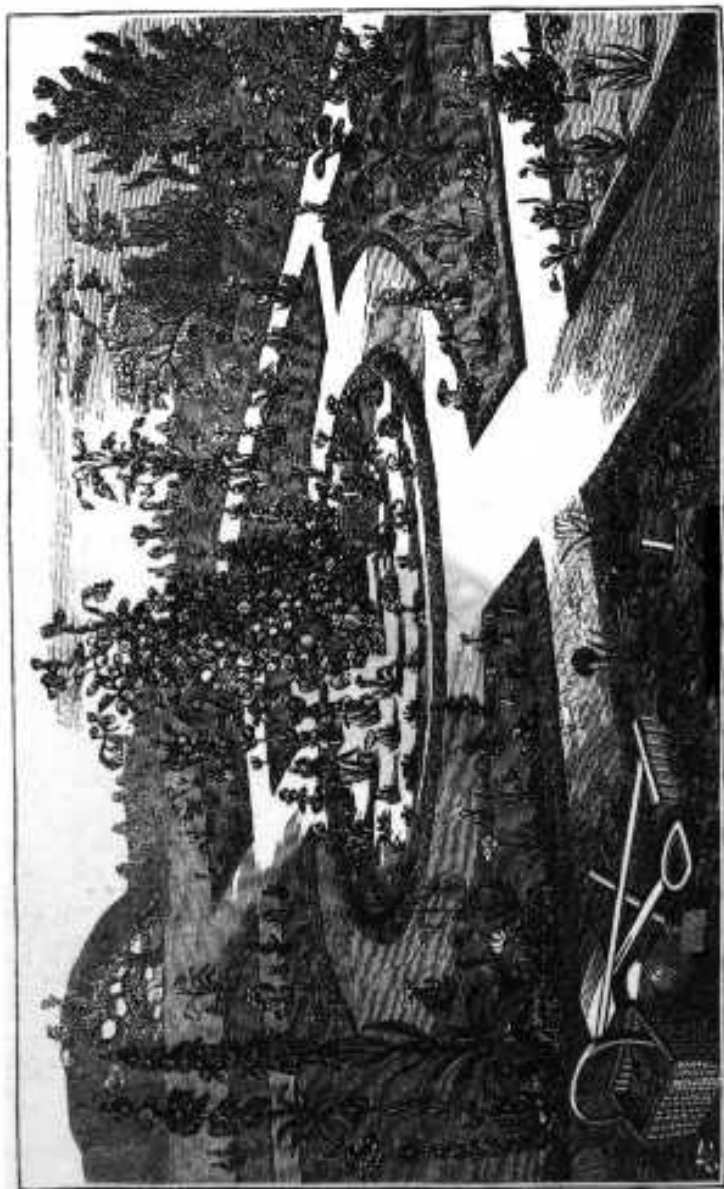
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ASA GRAY**

**CONVERSATIONS ON  
GARDENING, WITH  
INCIDENTAL REMARKS  
ON NATURAL HISTORY**





THE GARDEN.

CONVERSATIONS  
ON  
GARDENING;  
WITH  
INCIDENTAL REMARKS  
ON  
NATURAL HISTORY.

---

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE ELEMENTS OF BOTANY.

---

LONDON:  
JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

MDCCLXXXIV.



## PREFACE.

---

THE best preface to this little work will be an account of what has been attempted in it. The utility of exciting in the minds of young persons a fondness for gardening is universally admitted.

That there are several excellent works, intended for this purpose is undeniable, but the author thinks that, generally speaking, they are too technical, and likely, from the practical difficulty of their instructions, and from the time and expense required to effect what they propose, to discourage rather than to aid the attempts of the young gardener.

A child who would gladly *garden*, and raise flowers by his own skill and labour, is mortified at reading a description of beautiful plants which he cannot hope to succeed in rearing, for want of the hot-bed, stove, forcing-house, &c., required for their culture. But, all the useful part of the occupation, as a rational and innocent recreation, tending to form habits of industry, order, and observation, may be attained in a garden, where nothing but the more common and hardier plants are cultivated.

In the present work, two children are supposed to lay out and complete a small garden, which they stock with such shrubs and flowers as many can obtain, by a judicious indulgence on the part of their parents and friends, and by means of their own activity and intelli-



gence, without the necessity for more pecuniary expenditure than most children are enabled to make.

It is obvious, however, that by rather exceeding these limits, opportunity might be afforded for instructions that may be useful to some, while those who are not able or willing to attempt so much, may select or abridge, as it were, the garden and its contents so as to suit their own means and inclinations.

The conversational form was adopted as being generally considered more captivating, and less tedious to young readers; and as giving an opportunity of introducing digressions on natural history, which, though necessarily brief and simple, may relieve the tedium of technical precepts, and foster a taste for that delightful study. An attempt has been made to give the principle on which the operations of horticulture are founded, as deduced from botanical physiology, of the most elemental kind; such as is contained in the *Elements of Botany*.

It may, perhaps, be objected that the children talk rather too learnedly, but this is inevitable if *instruction* is to be conveyed. If the conversation of children were made *natural* in books, it might entertain, but could not *teach* much: and no more knowledge is presupposed in the present work on the part of the eldest, than may be acquired by the younger, and all readers of her age.

---

## GENERAL INDEX.

---

- Arrangement of flowers, 107.  
American plants, 79.  
Aroidæ, 119.  
Artificial ponds, 187.
- Birds, injurious to gardens,  
47, 50.  
Birds of passage, 177.  
Botanical principles, 36, 180,  
193.  
Box, account of, 19.  
Buds, 125.  
Budding, 132.  
Bulbs, 70, 148, 202.  
Borders, setting out, 104.
- Carnations, laying, 59.  
Cats do little damage in gar-  
dens, 48.  
Cold frame, 192.  
Cultivation, 4, 33, 109, 137, 154,  
201.  
Cuttings, 39, 52.  
Crassulacæ, 151.
- Dew, 158.  
Digging and trenching, 6.  
Dividing roots, 69.
- Drills, seeds to be sown in, 43.
- Edgings of turf, 2, 165.  
——— box, 15.  
Euphorbiacæ, 85.
- Florists' flowers, 95.  
French Beds, objections to, 31.
- Gardening operations, 33, 44,  
105, 112, 204.  
Gardening tools, 73.  
Gravel walks, 14, 165.  
Grafting, 129.
- Hardy-plants, 21.  
Hyacinths, treatment of, 96.
- Insects, 68, 160.
- Labiatæ, 82.  
Layers, 56, 59.  
Laying out a garden, 2, 11,  
23, 103.  
List of plants, 205.
- Manures, 168, 174.  
Marking sticks, 34.

- Mosses and Lichens, 89.  
 •  
 Natural History, 49, 55, 67, 83,  
 90, 100, 115, 123, 162, 177,  
 198.  
  
 Orchideæ, 64.  
  
 Pipings, 61.  
 Plans of gardens, 9, 32.  
 Plants, divisions of, 18.  
 Plants, exotic, early cultivated,  
 144.  
 Preparation of the soil, 26.  
 Pruning, 38, 127.  
  
 Rock-work, 29, 149.  
 Rustic trellis for climbing  
 plants, 28.  
  
 Saxifragæ, 103.  
 Seed, mode of trying, 45.
- Seed, time different sorts will  
 keep, 46.  
 Soils, 7, 172.  
 Sowing, 42.  
 Slips, 62.  
 Specific names, 94.  
 Species known, 90, 116.  
 ———, balance of, 162.  
 Standard Shrubs, 22.  
 Stocks for grafting, 135.  
 Striking cuttings, 55.  
  
 Transplanting, 36, 41, 101.  
 Trenching, 6.  
  
 Watering plants, 152.  
 Weeds, 63.  
 Worms, common earth, do little  
 damage, 50.  
 ———, wire, 51.  
 Wild plants, 87, 176, 185, 190,  
 197.
-