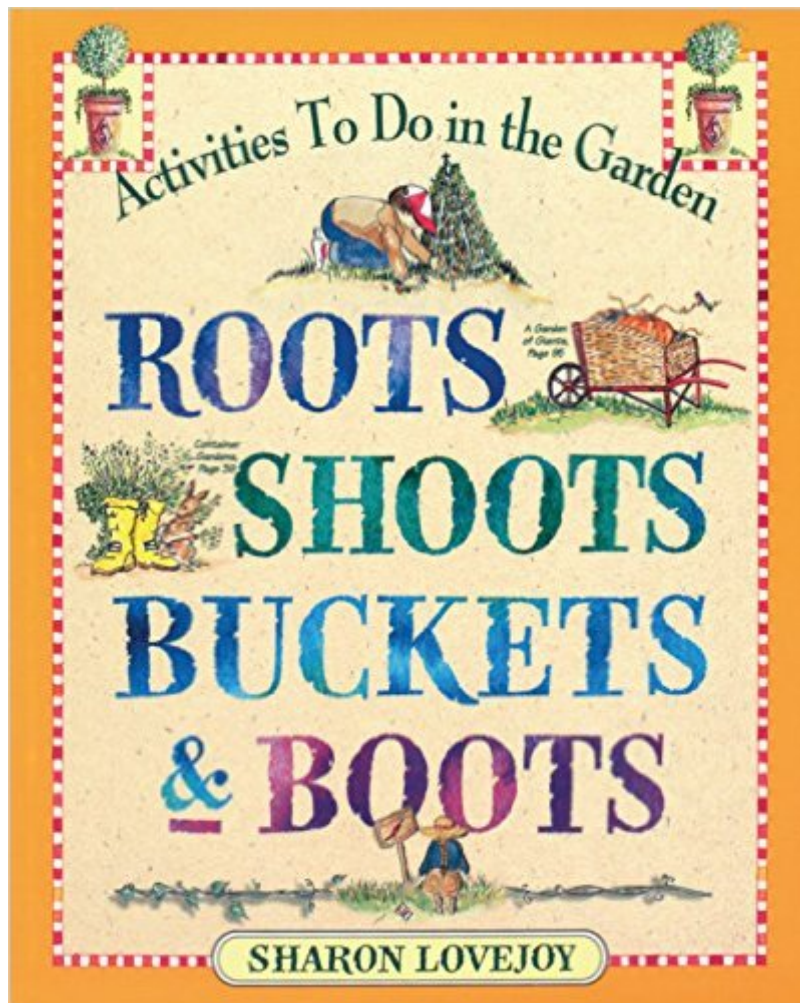


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Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together With Children



Synopsis

Plant a pumpkinseed with a child, and cultivate wonder. This simple act of reconnecting with children with nature is Sharon Lovejoy's purpose and joy and gift. Author of *Sunflower Houses: Garden Discoveries for Children of All Ages* and *Hollyhock Days: Garden Adventures for the Young at Heart*, Sharon Lovejoy is a nationally known garden writer whose books, television specials, and projects at her learning landscape in California have introduced thousands of children to the pleasures of gardening. In her newest book, *Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots*, she presents 12 spirited, easy-to-implement ideas for theme gardens that parents and kids can grow together. Illustrated throughout by the author's own lyrical watercolors, each garden includes a plan, the planting recipe -- seeds, seedlings, and growing instructions spelled out step-by-step -- and activities. There's the *Pizza Patch*, a giant-size wheel garden planted in "slices" of tomatoes, zucchini, oregano, and basil. A *Flowery Maze* to get lost in. A *Moon Garden* of night-blooming flowers, including a moonflower tent. And *Mother Nature's Medicine Chest*. *Discovery Walks* teach kids how the gardens work, and a chapter on gardening basics includes a child-friendly 10-Minute Plan for planting and maintenance, plus a list of the top 20 plants guaranteed to make gardeners out of kids.

Book Information

Series: Gardening together with children

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Age Range: 4 - 10 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 5

Customer Reviews

This book does more than just suggest seeds to plant or tools to buy--it's full of the coolest garden designs I've ever seen that are focused on kid fun. Lovejoy presents a large number of gardens based around a central theme- some edible with veggies and herbs, some aimed more at flowers. Each theme includes a list of plants for different zones and a garden-related project or two that brings new dimensions to history, nutrition, science, cooking, ecology or art for your kids. Several of them revolve around a "tent" frame that needs a couple of adults to build it; it's sort of like a teepee, but with more supports. Once the frame is built, you can add a variety of different vines to create anything from a "night garden" tent of scented white flowers to a thickly-screened shade tent for hot summer days. Since the frame can be covered with annuals, you can plan a different garden each year. There's ideas for traditional knot gardens, proper composting, flowers for craft activities, and unusual and easy-to-grow edibles, and it's easily possible to combine a couple of Lovejoy's themes to creat your own. Lots of basics on plant care are included--even if you've never really gardened before, you can handle these layouts if you don't mind getting dirty. You also don't have to have a huge yard to apply some of these ideas; some of the projects can even happen in balcony containers. It's a great gift for your own kids or any other family you know who likes to have fun outside, and by far the best kid gardening book I've ever seen.

This book put an end to my search for a GREAT gardening book to which my boys, ages 4&7, could immediately relate. The beautiful and precise detail of the illustrations grabbed their attention and stimulated many great ideas for how the imaginative plans and designs could be used in our raised garden. The suggestions for creating special little spaces such as the canopied walkway using morning glories grown up the sunflower stalks or the gourd tee-pee with the snap bean entry way really got them excited. What's great is that no suggestion is too complicated for a small child's first time gardening attempt or so simple as to be dull or predictable for an older child or adult. I'm really enjoying the garden tips that I've never come across in my 15 or so years of gardening. I've recommended this book to a farmer friend and a long-time teacher who also found this book to enchanting. The authors could teach a thing or two to most authors of adult gardening books as well. This really is a "must have."

Reading this book is like exploring a garden; there are new discoveries every time you look. Much more than a "how-to" garden book, "Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together With Children" takes you and your child on a gardening adventure. Author Sharon Lovejoy weaves

garden planning, plant care, nature explorations, science, art, and storytelling into creative garden themes. For example, the Moon Garden features fragrant, luminous flowers twining around a pole tent. Sit in the tent at night to discover that "fragrance is the color of night." Along the way, learn which animals are active at night, how to tell the temperature by listening to crickets, and how to attract moths with homemade moth broth. At the end of the season, hold a seed-saving party. In the Zuni Waffle Garden, "dig into the ancient traditions of Native American gardeners and harvest some of their best ideas for your own backyard." Learn about waxing and waning moon cycles, plant the "Three Sisters of Life" like the Iroquois, and sing a traditional Indian song to your plants. Finish off the season with a harvest celebration by making Indian corn jewelry and cornstalk animals. The author's enchanting watercolors are a perfect match to the text, and even children who cannot read will enjoy looking at the colorful garden images. In *Gardening Basics*, Lovejoy's straightforward, concise explanations are perfect for beginning gardeners of any age. Get to know your soil, learn about organic gardening methods, and discover why compost is "garden health food." Garden maintenance is tailored to kids with the ten-minute plan and an explorer's kit. You'll buy the book for the imaginative theme gardens; you and your child will keep coming back to it for the tidbits of advice and activities sprinkled throughout book. Don't plan a child's garden without this book!

This book was an impulse buy for me at a local department store. Boy am I glad I trusted my impulse! This book provides kids with easy to follow garden "recipes". A great book for parents and grandparents who want to share the joys of gardening with the children in their lives. The idea gardens presented make it difficult for kids to resist the urge to get out and grow something in their backyard! My kids are having a hard time deciding which 2 (or 3, or 4) gardens to try this next Spring!

Or better yet, a fork and an old rubber boot. *Roots, Shoots, Buckets and Boots* is a veritable journey into gardening with children of all ages. The illustrations will warm your heart and the activities help you to form a special bond with your child. The author has been gardening most of her life. She encourages parents to do the same, and to introduce nature to children from those very first days. Gardening, using Sharon's ideas, is an inexpensive way to teach so much to your child. Tools can be as simple as a spoon or a fork. Everything from gardening gloves to old boots can be used for containers for planting. Gardening teaches life lessons and allows you to spend time next to your child making daily discoveries. Sharon's book is a bargain too. You will get not only a book that is an awakening of the senses to read but one which will provide you with years worth of activities with

your child. If you have never gardened before or even if you are a seasoned gardener, this is the book for you. By Carol Laliberte

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