

WASHINGTON *gardener*

the magazine for gardening enthusiasts in the Mid-Atlantic region

**10+ Ways to Wage
War on Weeds**

**Transitioning the
Kitchen Garden
from Spring into
Early Summer**

**Coronavirus
Impacts on Local
Garden Centers**

**Simple Steps for
Planning a Victory
Garden**

**What to Do in the
Garden this Month**

**New Hemlock
Hybrid Withstands
Killing Insect**

**8 Safety Tips for
Using Spring Lawn
Equipment**

Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)

plenty of tips for planting, maintaining, and (importantly) harvesting the grain garden. (Yes, you can thresh and winnow at home!) The book also provides recipes and craft ideas to use your grain harvest, and a list of seed from sources. And lots of gorgeous photos!

The only thing that's stopping me from ordering some seed right now is the lack of a sunny space to plant in. Grains do require full sun, and I will have to do some thinking before coming up with a grain garden concept in my largely shady yard. Maybe all I'll manage is a mini-meadow or a thriller (focal point) of rice or sorghum in a big pot, but if so, I'll come back to this book for inspiration. 🌿

Erica H. Smith is a Montgomery County Master Gardener whose volunteer activities include the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden in Derwood, MD; the Grow It Eat It program; and speaking engagements on food-growing topics. She is the author of several novels; visit her website at ericahsmith.wordpress.com.

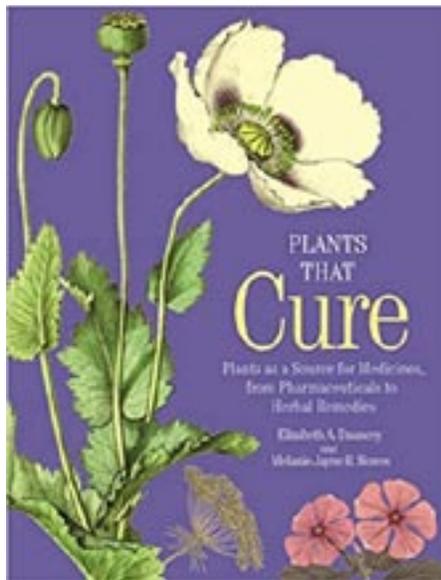
Plants that Cure: Plants as a Source for Medicines, from Pharmaceuticals to Herbal Remedies

Authors: Elizabeth A. Dauncey and Melanie-Jayne R. Howes
 Publisher: Princeton University Press
 List Price: \$29.95
 Order Link: <https://amzn.to/3et9jnx>
 Reviewer: Emily Coakley

Plants that Cure is an impressively illustrated book, filled with color photographs and diagrams of the natural history of plants with medicinal properties. The book covers topics that include how plant compounds can treat heart conditions, dementia, indigestion, arthritis, eyesight, types of cancer, and more.

The book starts off by giving a synopsis of the history behind medicinal plants and herbs, dating back to ancient times. Following the introductory chapter, the book is organized by a body system, with detailed information and pictures of plants from around the world that can be used to treat each condition.

Listed throughout the chapters, readers can also find interesting fun facts about types of plants. Author Elizabeth A. Dauncey is a freelance toxicolo-



gist, while Melanie-Jayne R. Howes is a pharmacist, chartered chemist, and leader in research at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Especially during a time when health concerns seem to be on everyone's mind, I recommend picking up **Plants that Cure** for an interesting and insightful read about the power behind plant medicine. 🌿

Emily Coakley is a senior broadcast journalism major, as well as a history minor, at the University of Maryland. She is from Westminster, MD; loves to travel; and has an interest in sports journalism. She is interning this spring with *Washington Gardener*.

The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening

Author: Kim Eierman
 Publisher: Quarto Publishing Group,
 List Price: \$24.99
 Order Link: <https://amzn.to/3etgHPT>
 Reviewer: Andrea F. Siegel

The rapid decline of pollinators should be a monumental concern to anyone who eats, since the vast majority of the world's crops rely on pollination. Kim Eierman, a noted environmental horticulturist and founder of EcoBeneficial, a horticulture consulting/communications company, tells us that the urgency that inspired the Victory Gardens of the two world wars is needed right now to fight the threat to our food supply and environment. Everyone can be a part of that fight by improving the dreadful lot of pollinators.

This doesn't mean eliminating your lawn (although if you consider the effort, dollars, and fertilizer that go into creating it just so you can continually cut it down...) but it does mean carving out space for four-season, pollinator-welcoming areas on your property, to take pollinators through the stages of their lives.

For a fairly slim volume, **The Pollinator Victory Garden** is packed with an impressive amount of helpful information, and of course, lovely photos—though many readers would benefit from captions that named the flowers in photos of diverse plantings. This book has a very straightforward approach. Everything in here can be adapted to every climate and location, and there are growing suggestions for all.

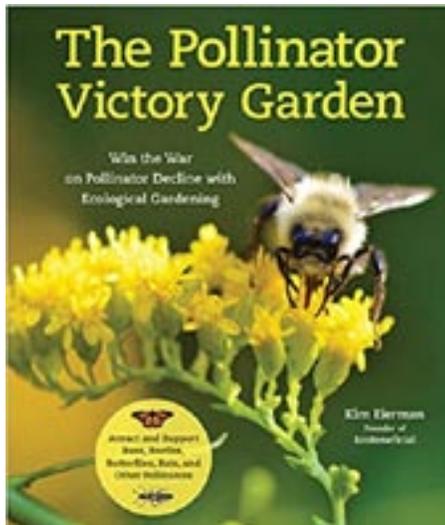
For one thing, the 160-page book provides textbook-type information about bats, bees, beetles, birds, butterflies, etc., geared toward helping us understand the varied diets and habitats we should provide to address pollinator needs. This education, which includes how pollination and ecosystems work, turns into the steps to take in creating gardens and habitats.

Having explanations about such things as the attributes of and differences between natives, nativars, nonnatives, naturalized, and invasive plants, we can make more-informed decisions about what to grow. The habitat information is very helpful, because it goes into the value of such features as windbreaks as shelter, rocks for warming, and—two personal favorites—piles of unraked leaves and dead plants with stalks for overwintering (it's nice to know that the mess is appreciated).

Info boxes within the chapters are tremendously helpful. The chapter about offering a diverse buffet for pollinators features a sample host plant checklist showing readers how to determine which plants support, for example, a particular butterfly, and a sample bloom inventory chart of plants that flower from early spring through fall so there's always something on the menu. The chapter about pollinators

Book Reviews continued from page 18

Book Reviews continued on page 17



has boxes naming native flowers pollinated by each group of pollinators, including beetles and moths.

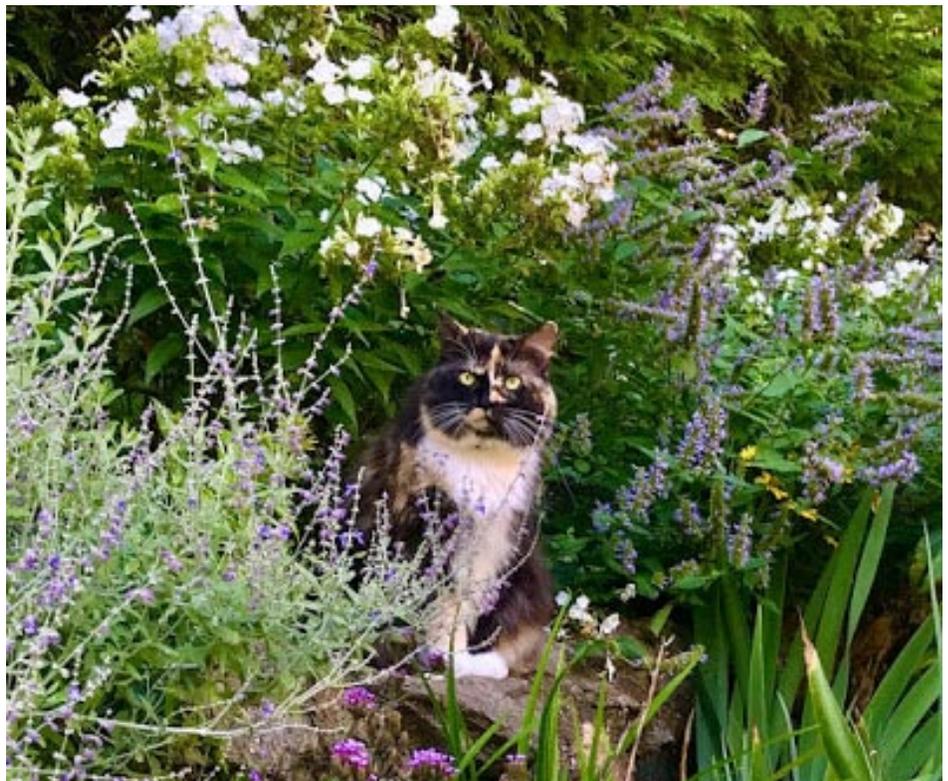
Many readers will be most appreciative of the tips list and Pollinator Victory Garden checklist—two great summaries of the key “musts” in the book, with native plant lists, divided by season, for a number of pollinators; recommendations of other books, websites (including the author’s own), and the like. As a whole, the book is valuable for the insights it gives gardeners at every level of skill and knowledge. It could serve as a textbook and guide for schools and community groups looking to create Pollinator Victory Gardens, pollinator paths, meadows, and opportunities for volunteers. 🌿

Andrea F. Siegel is a writer and a master gardener in Maryland.

Note: These book reviews include links to Amazon.com for ordering them. *Washington Gardener Magazine* may receive a few cents from each order placed after clicking on these book order links.

Love Reading?

These books were reviewed by volunteer members of the *Washington Gardener* Reader Panel. To join the *Washington Gardener* Volunteer Reader Panel, please send an email with your name and address to: KathyJentz@gmail.com. We look forward to having you be a vital part of our local publication and its gardening mission. 🌿



Local gardeners Jimmy and Andrew shared these photos of their two cats. Jimmy wrote: “Our two cats love the garden. We live in a Tudor cottage with, of course, a cottage-style English garden. (We took inspiration from the Bishop’s Garden at the National Cathedral.)

“Our sweet long-haired torti (tor-toiseshell) is named Bea, but her full name is Beatrix Farrand, named after the famed landscape architect who designed Dumbarton Oaks in Georgetown.

“Our other kitty is a tuxedo (black-and-white) named Batgirl, because when she was a kitten, her little head hadn’t grown into her big ears and she looked like Batgirl from the ‘60s show!

“Both are great company outside, whether we are gardening, having morning coffee, or entertaining.” 🌿

This is an occasional column in *Washington Gardener Magazine* featuring photos of pets in gardens. Submit your photos to KathyJentz@gmail.com and use the subject line “Pets in Gardens.” Tell us a bit about the animal and your garden as well.