

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Paradise Under Glass: The Education of an Indoor Gardener
by Ruth Kassinger

Community Read, March–May 2025

The Longwood Gardens Community Read is designed to encourage reading for pleasure, and to start a conversation. Focusing on literature about gardens, plants, and the natural world, we feature an exceptional book annually (paired with a similarly themed younger readers’ book) through a variety of programs, discussions, and lectures across all community partner organizations. For more information about the Community Read, go to longwoodgardens.org/community-read.

This guide was prepared by Longwood Gardens Library and Information Services for anyone interested in hosting a book discussion (or another program) for the Community Read book.

If you want to continue to explore the ideas, themes, and inspirations of *Paradise Under Glass*, here is a list of resources to fuel your thinking. You will find the books at public libraries and local and online bookstores.

We’ve included books about conservatories as well as houseplants and indoor gardening. There is a multitude of books on these subjects, we’ve selected a few of our favorites.

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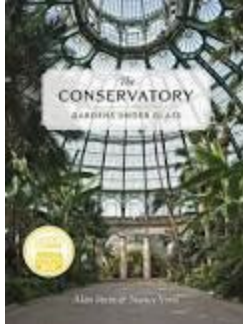
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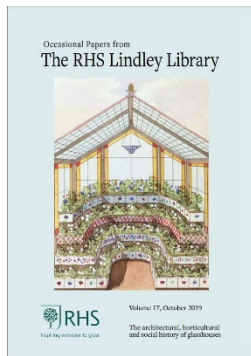
CONSERVATORIES



The Conservatory: Gardens Under Glass

by Alan Stein and Nancy Virts. (Princeton Architectural Press, 2020)

“Elegant and magnificent, conservatories reveal fascinating social, cultural, botanical, and engineering advances as they have evolved across history. First appearing in the eighteenth century as simple structures designed to protect fruit trees and other delicate plants from harsh European winters, conservatories became grand glass houses that spread across the European continent, to the Americas, and ultimately around the world.” (papress.com)

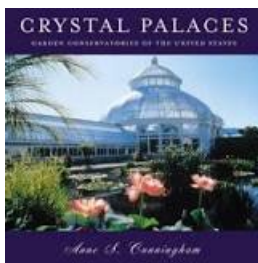


A World Under Glass: The Architectural, Horticultural and Social History of Glasshouses

by The Royal Horticultural Society. (RHS Lindley Library, 2019)

Available electronically: <https://tinyurl.com/World-Under-Glass>

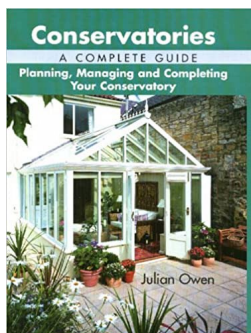
“Volume 17 of the Occasional Papers from the Lindley Library charts the rise and decline of these glass edifices – examining shifting tastes from the 17th– 20th century that dictated style, as well as chronicling the developments in engineering and technology that allowed these structures to assume shapes never before imagined and functional capabilities which catered for evolving modern demands.” (rhs.org.uk)



Crystal Palaces: Garden Conservatories of the United States

by Anne S. Cunningham. (Princeton Architectural Press, 2000)

“A central part of a visit to any botanical garden is the conservatory, an enormous glass structure that houses a wide variety of exotic flora. America has an abundance of exceptional examples; many have been designated National Historic Landmarks. *Crystal Palaces* is the first book on garden conservatories in the United States.” (papress.com)



Conservatories, A Complete Guide: Planning, Managing and Completing Your Conservatory

by Julian Owen (Crowood Press, 2005)

“Adding a conservatory to a house is one of the most popular home-improvement projects, but those wishing to extend their homes in this way have found it difficult to obtain practical, well-informed, and independent advice. This invaluable book addresses this problem and provides a comprehensive step-by-step guide.” (crowood.com)



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HOUSEPLANTS AND INDOOR GARDENING



Living Wild: How to Plant Style Your Home & Cultivate Happiness

by Hilton Carter (CICO Books, 2023)

“The therapeutic benefits of living with and tending plants are well known--they offer a connection to the natural world that nurtures our mental and physical health. In *Living Wild*, Hilton Carter shows how to create a lush, stylish space with flourishing plants that bring life to your home and happiness to your life.” (simonandschuster.com/authors/CICO-Books)



The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for Every Room in Your Home

by Tovah Martin (Timber Press, 2012)

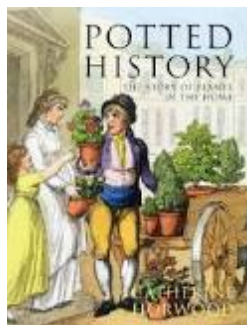
“Instead of the typical varieties, Martin suggests hundreds of creative choices—brilliant spring bulbs, lush perennials brought in from the garden, quirky succulents, and flowering vines and small trees. Along with loads of visual inspiration, you will learn how to make unusual selections, where to best position plants in the home, and valuable tips on watering, feeding, and pruning.” (hachettebookgroup.com/imprint/timber-press)



The New Plant Parent: Develop Your Green Thumb and Care for Your House-Plant Family

by Darryl Cheng (Abrams, 2019)

“Darryl Cheng...teaches the art of understanding a plant's needs and giving it a home with the right balance of light, water, and nutrients. After reading Cheng, the indoor gardener will be far less the passive follower of rules for the care of each species and much more the confident, active grower, relying on observation and insight. And in the process, the plant owner becomes a plant lover, bonded to these beautiful living things by a simple love and appreciation of nature.” (abramsbooks.com)



Potted History: The Story of Plants in the Home

By Catherine Horwood (Frances Lincoln, 2007)

“There are plenty of books on how to look after houseplants but Catherine Horwood is the first to show us how, when and why these plants came to be found in our homes. We learn how potted plants are as subject to fashion as pieces of furniture... [This] novel combination of social history, plant history and the history of interior design is intriguing.” (quarto.com/Frances-Lincoln)



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