



# Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired the Classic Children's Tales

By Marta McDowell

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**“An enchanting and original account of Beatrix Potter’s life and her love of plants and gardening.” —Judy Taylor, vice president of the Beatrix Potter Society**

There aren’t many books more beloved than *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and even fewer authors as iconic as Beatrix Potter. More than 150 million copies of her books have sold worldwide and interest in her work and life remains high. And her characters—Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle Duck, and all the rest—exist in a charmed world filled with flowers and gardens. *Beatrix Potter’s Gardening Life* is the first book to explore the origins of Beatrix Potter’s love of gardening and plants and show how this passion came to be reflected in her work. The book begins with a gardener’s biography, highlighting the key moments and places throughout her life that helped define her, including her home Hill Top Farm in England’s Lake District. Next, the reader follows Beatrix Potter through a year in her garden, with a season-by-season overview of what is blooming that truly brings her gardens alive. The book culminates in a traveler’s guide, with information on how and where to visit Potter’s gardens today.

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**Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired the Classic Children's Tales** By Marta McDowell **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### From *Booklist*

Part of the charm and eye-delighting intricacy of Beatrix Potter's beloved children's books about such endearing and enduring characters as Peter Rabbit and Jemima Puddle-Duck are the precisely and vitally rendered illustrations of the English gardens, farms, and landscapes her characters so actively occupy. In this sumptuously illustrated "gardening biography," horticultural consultant McDowell, who is fascinated by writers who garden (her first book was *Emily Dickinson's Gardens*, 2004), fully illuminates Potter's deep botanical knowledge and joy in cultivation. When publishers rejected her first attempt at a children's book, Potter self-published *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* in 1902, launching a brilliant career. When she purchased Hill Top Farm in the fabled Lake District, she set out on the path that led to her becoming an intrepid gardener, savvy landowner, sheep breeder, and conservationist, ultimately leaving thousands of pristine acres to the National Trust. With wit and expertise, McDowell highlights the stamp of Potter's horticultural know-how on her indelible books and chronicles a year in her exuberant gardens to create a visually exciting, pleasurable appreciation of Potter's devotion to art and nature. --Donna Seaman

#### Review

"Stir your imagination. . . . a biography written through plants." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"With wit and expertise, McDowell highlights the stamp of Potter's horticultural know-how on her indelible books and chronicles a year in her exuberant gardens to create a visually exciting, pleasurable appreciation of Potter's devotion to art and nature." —*Booklist*

"A loving portrait." —*Better Homes and Gardens*

"You will be charmed by this book." —*Gardens Illustrated*

"A richly illustrated exploration of Beatrix Potter's evolution as an author-illustrator, gardener, sheep farmer and land preservationist." —*Shelf Awareness*

"In her new book, *Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life*, Marta McDowell expands our knowledge of Miss Potter horticultural expertise and background, explaining what she grew and where. There are photographs here that I have never seen before of Beatrix and her gardens, and delicious watercolors of rose hips and violets, clematis and honeysuckle, snapdragons and waterlilies—with and without rabbits, frogs and guileless ducks." —*The Telegraph*

"A volume rich with photographs and Potter's own enchanting sketches and watercolors." —*The Chicago Tribune*

"McDowell brings to light a delightfully different side of the celebrated author. . . . The book recounts Potter's life through a gardening lens and is copiously illustrated with her sketches and watercolors of plants." —*American Gardener*

"McDowell's book is beautiful in every way. The fascinating narrative is liberally illustrated with both photographs and Potter's original artwork, which includes botanical prints and paintings of gardens in

addition to her iconic collection of children's illustrations." —*Cape Codder*

"This is not an historical novel with a plot, but neither is it a mere documentary of facts. It is the perfect blend of both." —*Alaska Airlines Magazine*

"You may well want to buy a copy to keep and several to give friends. . . . McDowell's well-researched book (including plant lists) is nearly as good as a visit to the farm. From a watercolor of Jemima Puddle-duck hiding from a fox among the foxgloves, to sepia photos of Potter strolling the garden paths on a frosty morning, the book is a visual delight." —*The Seattle Times*

From the Back Cover

"Yes I have lots of flowers, I am very fond of my garden, it is a regular old fashioned farm garden, with a box hedge round the flower bed, and moss roses and pansies and black currants and strawberries and peas. . . . I have tall white bell flowers I am fond of. . . . next there will be phlox; and last come the michaelmas daisies and chrysanthemums. Then soon after Christmas we have snowdrops, they grow wild and come up all over the garden and orchard, and in some of the woods." —Beatrix Potter

Beatrix Potter's characters—Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle Duck, and all the rest—exist in a charmed world filled with flowers and gardens. *Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life* is the first book to explore the origins of Beatrix Potter's love of gardening and plants and show how this passion came to be reflected in her work. Richly illustrated and filled with quotations from her books, letters, and journals, it is essential reading for all who know and cherish Beatrix Potter's classic tales.

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**Edna Garza:**

Book is definitely written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important point to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A reserve Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired the Classic Children's Tales will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think which open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or ideal book with you?

**Kurt Rose:**

The book untitled Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired the Classic Children's Tales contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your ex idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new era of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice go through.

**Leonard Jones:**

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