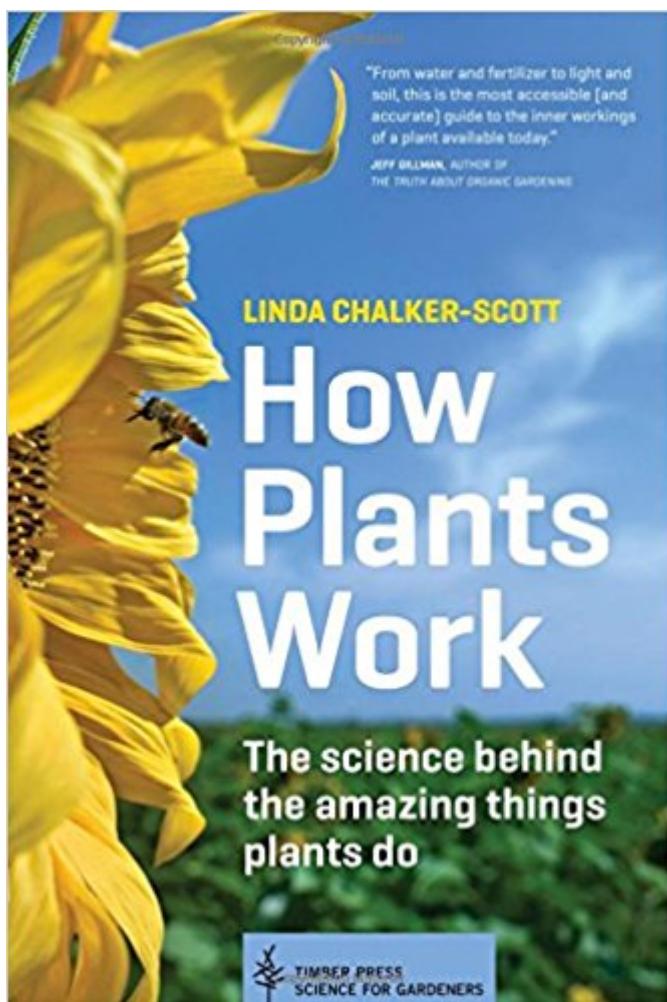


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# How Plants Work: The Science Behind The Amazing Things Plants Do (Science For Gardeners)



## Synopsis

The more you know, the better you grow! Plants are capable of interesting and unexpected things. Why do container plants wilt when they've been regularly watered? Why did the hydrangea that thrived last year never bloom this year? Why do slugs wipe out the vegetable garden instead of eating the weeds? Plant physiology—the study of how living things function—can solve these and most other problems gardeners regularly encounter. In *How Plants Work*, horticulture expert and contributor to the popular blog *The Garden Professors*, Linda Chalker-Scott brings the stranger-than-fiction science of the plant world to vivid life. She uncovers the mysteries of how and why plants do the things they do, and arms the home gardener with fascinating knowledge that will change the way they garden.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Linda removes much of the mystery from gardening, replaces it with reliable knowledge, and does it all while retaining the wonder that makes this activity so inspiring.” Steve Aitken, editor of *Fine Gardening* “From water and fertilizer to light and soil, this is the most accessible (and accurate) guide to the inner workings of a plant available today.” Jeff Gillman, author of *The Truth About Organic Gardening* and *The Truth About Garden Remedies* “If you've ever wondered, ‘Why did my plant do that?’ look no further. Linda Chalker-Scott lays out the science behind garden plants in a buoyant, readable guide that you'll be turning to for years to

come.â • â "Billy Goodnick, landscape architect, author, andÂ educator â œHow Plants Work by Linda Chalker-Scott should ease our minds and lighten our workloads. She does a terrific job with the science of cell structure and explains why sunflowers turn to the sun, why tulips close up at night and loads of other fascinating tidbits.â • â "New York Times Book Review â œIn her engaging, myth-busting book, Chalker-Scott opens up the wonders and curiosities of plant physiology. She not only makes us care about cell membranes, mitochondria and root stress, but leaves us eager to learn more.â • â "Seattle Times â œUsing real-life situations and a conversational style, Chalker-Scott makes the science of growing things simple for home gardeners. Readers of this book will be able to make more informed choices in gardening practices.â • â "Houston Herald â œThis book by Linda Chalker-Scott arms gardeners with hard science while relating information in an accessible and entertaining voice. . . . I canâ ™t think of a better way to pass the winter months.â • â "The Star Press â œLinda Chalker-Scott has become a champion for evidence-based horticulture by citing scientific studies to debunk gardening practices and products that simply donâ ™t work. In her new book. . . .Â she uses real-life situations, explanatory color photographs and drawings, and her signature colloquial style to make the science of plant processes accessible to home gardeners.â • â "The American Gardener â œLoads of tips on planting, watering, fertilizers, weeds, what causes plant problems and much more.Â Yes, it will help you change the way you garden.â • â "Garden Design Online â œThe author presents a holistic view of the anatomy and physiology of plants. . . . This would be an excellent resource for gardeners, science projects for students, and in a botany class.â • â "National Science Teachers Association â œThis 235-page, easy-to-understand guide presents information on plant physiology. . . .Â in a clear and logical way for gardeners.â • â "The Oregonian â œOne of the most engrossing and useful books on gardening Iâ ™ve found in a very long time.â • â "Forest Garden Blog

How Plants Work brings the stranger-than-fiction science of the plant world to vivid life!Â It explains how plants tell time, how they move to follow the sun and capture food, and why they change color. Linda Chalker-Scott, of the popular blog The Garden Professors, uncovers these and other fascinating mysteries in this engaging and accessible introduction to plant physiology.Â By revealing the science behind what plants do every day, this book arms you with information that will change the way you garden. Youâ ™ll learn how to fertilize and prune more effectively, how to weed less than you ever have, and how to determine which garden products are worth your time and money.

I bought this book because I was planning on joining (and was accepted to) the Penn State Master

Gardener program. I felt it would be a good primer and prepare me for the "science of gardening". The material in this book is indeed scientific in nature, but the author presents it in a manner that can be understood relatively easy. There are some sections that may need to be reread or reviewed, but again, we are talking about the science of gardening...so it may be a bit technical. This book was indeed helpful for me in understanding the information that is taught through my Master Gardener program

I've been getting more into gardening recently and bought this book based on a recommendation. I'm glad I did. Many gardening books read like cookbooks - vague instructions on what to do with no rationale behind them. This book is not one of those. Instead, Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott (can I call you Linda?) sets out to discuss the science of plants while providing practical information. She succeeded admirably. The book is well written, easy to read, and most importantly - approachable by a general audience. While all of her gardening advice is grounded on science, the book is neither dry nor academic, instead it's fun and lively. This book is divided into 9 sections covering the following topics: 1) Plant anatomy, 2) Roots, 3) Soil, 4) Photosynthesis, 5) Anthocyanins - or why plants suddenly turn red, 6) How plants tell time, 7) How plants move, 8) Pruning and garden care, 9) Plant reproduction. Each topic is given a general overview, with examples given so you can understand how these concepts are at work in the garden. Finally, Linda also comments on what the science says about a variety of gardening advice - spoiler alert, most of it is bunk and some even harmful to your plants. This book is not a plant encyclopedia. If you are expecting a list of 300 common plants (none of which you seem to own) with bullet points about how to care for them, you won't find it here. Instead, the information in this book applies to all kinds of plants, indoor plants, outdoor plants, trees, grasses, herbs and vegetables, container gardens, orchids, etc. If you have a background in the life sciences (non-botany), this book may seem a bit simplistic and you'll be itching for more in depth explanations about each of the topics. Bottom line - unless you have a degree in botany or horticulture, you should read this book if you are at all interested in plants and gardening.

This book is a must for all you Master Gardeners out there especially but also for anyone wanting to be up to date on the latest scientific information about plants, soil, nutrients and much more. Dr. Chalker Scott interprets the latest scientific findings in a clear, easy and entertaining way that even someone without a scientific background will absorb quickly.

A most interesting book. I thought it would be rather simple and had planned to donate to our library, but after reading--and learning--many interesting things from it I will keep it for at least a year. Even people experienced with plants will learn interesting and useful information here! Written in an easy to read style, too.

This book is information-packed, often funny, absolutely fearless in debunking with good science some garden 'myths' that border on spurious. Curious gardeners will love it. Those of us who mentor and teach beginning gardeners will find it indispensable.

A great introduction to plant science, in an entertaining style. Of particular value to me are the explanations of why birds, bees, and moths are attracted to specific colors. What would improve this book? How about organizing the material into chapters and adding an index. I do hope a 2nd edition is written, to make it easier to find details after the first read through. However, the author's style makes an enjoyable read for anyone who is fascinated by plants.

How Plants Work is a must have book for anyone with an interest in horticulture. With 9 sections Linda Chalker-Scott gives you the details on how the cells of plants work and with this base foundation start to build up from there. Linda answers questions such as how far roots spread and how deep they go, she explains photosynthesis and how this should affect the placement of a plant, why leaves turn red and much much more. The more a gardener understands the basics of how our plants work and interact with their environment the better gardeners we will be. This book is written for the average person in language that most should find easy to understand while being based on the latest science. If you like to garden no matter your skill level you should give this book a read, it will help you advance your skills and your landscape.

I purchased this book to use as a resource for my sixth grade daughter's science project. The table of contents made it easy to determine which chapters would be most helpful and the writing is clear and easy to understand.

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