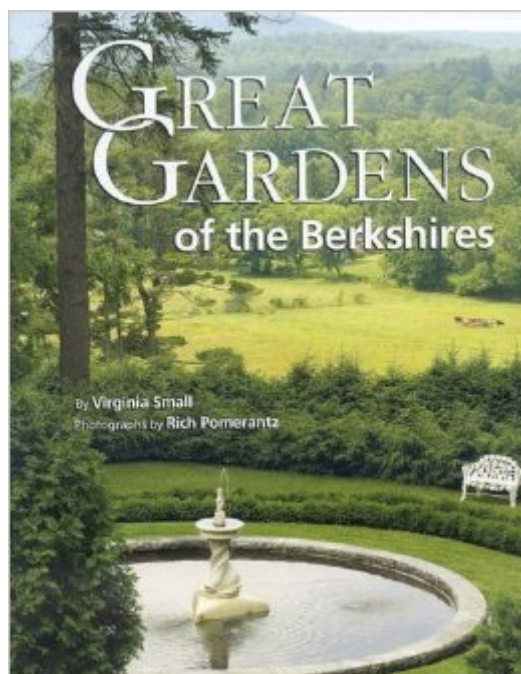


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# Great Gardens Of The Berkshires



## Synopsis

The Berkshires of western Massachusetts and surrounding New York and Connecticut foothills includes many fine gardens-public and private, and grand and intimate. This lavishly illustrated book takes you on a broad-ranging tour of the most outstanding examples, from historically significant gardens to innovative contemporary landscapes. Green thumbs, garden tourists, and armchair gardeners alike will find inspiration here, along with garden history and tips about design principles, plant selection, hardscape features, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Breathtaking gardens have been an integral part of domestic American landscapes and have long provided healing effects on the mind, body and soul of those that grew and tended them as well as those who merely enjoyed their beauty and diversity. "Great Garden of the Berkshires" showcases both public and private gardens in a beautifully illustrated and informative compendium. Author Virginia Small integrates the stories behind the creation of each of these unique places, enhanced throughout with stunningly presented photos as captured by Rich Pomerantz. "Great Gardens of the Berkshires" will inspire the gardener in you with ideas about texture, color schemes, plant combinations and more. Featuring heartwarming and charming explorations of the richness such great public gardens as The Mount, Naumkeag, Chesterwood, Ashintully and the Berkshire Botanical Garden, "Great Gardens of the Berkshires" is the next best thing to personally exploring these personal floral paradises and discovering just what inspired their creation. Recommended for gardeners, or anyone with an interest in landscape and design, "Great Gardens of the Berkshires" is

especially suitable for all public and private library Gardening/Landscaping reference collections and supplemental reading lists.

In a few words, *Great Gardens of the Berkshires* is visceral, intimate, and layered. Reading this book was like taking a leisurely stroll through a virtual world guided by two skilled artists. The vision and sensibility of 17 gardens are told by a perceptive wordsmith, and shown through the keen eye of an accomplished photographer. Throughout, there is a sense of reverence about nature and beauty. I found myself meandering from scene to scene, drawn to the clear captions and back again to the main text; then daydreaming about applying the stories and techniques to my own landscape. I am anxious to be more creative with my own garden making. Gardening is like parenting. The gardeners featured in this book know that it takes time, to listen, care, guide and allow things to grow the way that enhances their potential in various seasons, climates and locations. Besides the evocative stories, this rich resource offers influences, practical tips and recommends attractions in the area. You will want to visit the Berkshires.

Long overdue, *Great Gardens of the Berkshires* (Down East Publications, 2008) by Virginia Small and with photographs by Rich Pomerantz, is a delight to read. Brimming with elegant images and insightful observations that invite us into the world of both public and private gardens, we are privy to what has been a long-standing Berkshire tradition: a love of gardens. This visually compelling book offers an in-depth appreciation and celebration of each garden's unique qualities be it formal or rustic. With a penetrating eye that reveals unusual angles and details such as a Greek column that acts like a sentry to Chesterwood's woodland path, Rich Pomerantz offers the reader a fresh look. Encompassing private gardens in Litchfield County, Connecticut and Columbia County, New York as well, the book seeks to reveal the identity, spirit and idiosyncracies of each.

Inspirational is an understatement for this beautifully illustrated and well-written examination of some fabulous gardens. If you're a gardener, you'll find yourself stepping back to see how you can somehow use the landscape ideas captured in *Great Gardens*. If you're not a gardener, you'll wonder why not and find yourself thinking "I can do that." Now that I've got my Garden Conservancy book of open gardens for this year, I've cross checked the open gardens with those in this book to be sure I get to see as many as time and scheduling will allow.

This is a lovely, inspiring book that garden lovers all over the country should love. There are

sweeping, grand gardens and smaller, private properties that are horticulturally rich. Plant combinations, planning the structure of a garden, and ways to furnish or ornament outdoor rooms are just some of the ways that this book will be helpful to the average home gardener. Rich's photographs make this book sing, and we can all pretend to be strolling through these lovely landscapes every time we pick up this book.

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