

Longwood Gardens Community Read 2020 Additional Readings (Teen and Adult)

We encourage you to continue reading books about plants. Here are some book suggestions, including plant-based science fiction and non-fiction on the topics of plant intelligence and unusual plants. You will find these titles at public libraries and local bookstores in your community.

Bizarre Botanicals: How to Grow String-of-Hearts, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Panda Ginger, and Other Weird and Wonderful Plants / by Paula Gross and Larry Mellichamp (2010)

Bizarre Botanicals features over 75 astonishing plants that have extraordinary abilities—from pyrotechnic spores that can burst into flame when ignited to flowers that lure insects to their deaths. Each plant profile includes essential care and cultivation information. A difficulty scale alerts gardeners to how easy (or difficult) it is to grow the plant at home.

(<https://www.workman.com>)

Carnivorous Plants: Gardening with Extraordinary Botanicals / by Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (2016)

Once known only to collectors, adolescent boys, and fans of the cult film *The Little Shop of Horrors*, carnivorous plants are poised to be the next big trend in home gardening. They provide striking architectural style and can be grown indoors and outdoors. *Carnivorous Plants* is an accessible, smartly designed guide to growing this unusual group of plants. It offers a general introduction to the world of carnivorous plants, and growing and cultivation information for commonly available and easily grown varieties. (<https://www.workman.com>)

The Day of the Triffids / by John Wyndham (1951)

Bill Masen, bandages over his wounded eyes, misses the most spectacular meteorite shower England has ever seen. Removing his bandages the next morning, he finds masses of sightless people wandering the city. He soon meets Josella, another lucky person who has retained her sight, and together they leave the city, aware that the safe, familiar world they knew a mere twenty-four hours before is gone forever.

But to survive in this post-apocalyptic world, one must survive the Triffids, strange plants that years before began appearing all over the world. The Triffids can grow to over seven feet tall, pull their roots from the ground to walk, and kill a man with one quick lash of their poisonous stingers. With society in shambles, they are now poised to prey on humankind.

(www.penguinrandomhouse.com)



El Día de los Trífidos / by John Wyndham (Spanish Edition, Minotauro, 2003)

Unas extrañas luces verdes han aparecido en el cielo y la mayor parte de la humanidad ha alzado la mirada para contemplar el fenómeno. A la mañana siguiente todos despiertan ciegos. Las pocas personas que conservan la vista inician la lucha por sobrevivir en un mundo que se debate entre la desesperación y la barbarie. Uno de ellos es Bill Masen, que se encuentra ingresado en el hospital, recuperándose del ataque de una planta mutante creada por el hombre: los trífidos. Se trata de enormes vegetales capaces de moverse y que han desarrollado una especie de lengua venenosa con la que agreden a los humanos. Ahora que han descubierto la debilidad de éstos, los trífidos se disponen a heredar la Tierra..., si los supervivientes no lo impiden. (<https://www.casadelibro.com>)

Evil Roots: Killer Tales of the Botanical Gothic / edited by Daisy Butcher (2019)

Strangling vines and meat-hungry flora fill this unruly garden of strange stories, selected for their significance as the seeds of the villainous (or perhaps just misunderstood) 'killer plant' in fiction, film and video games.

Step within to marvel at Charlotte Perkins Gilman's giant wistaria and H. G. Wells' hungry orchid; hear the calls of the ethereal women of the wood, and the frightful drone of the moaning lily; and do tread carefully around E. Nesbit's wandering creepers...

Every strain of vegetable threat (and one deadly fungus) can be found within this new collection, representing the very best tales from the undergrowth of Gothic fiction. (www.bl.uk)

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from A Secret World / by Peter Wohlleben (2016)

Are trees social beings? In this international bestseller, forester and author Peter Wohlleben convincingly makes the case that, yes, the forest is a social network. He draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. Wohlleben also shares his deep love of woods and forests, explaining the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in his woodland. After learning about the complex life of trees, a walk in the woods will never be the same again. (www.greystonebooks.com)

La Vida Secreta de los Arboles: Descubre su mundo oculto: qué Sienten, qué comunican / by Peter Wohlleben (Spanish edition, Ediciones Obelisco, 2016)

En los bosques suceden cosas sorprendentes: árboles que se comunican entre sí, árboles que aman y cuidan a sus hijos y a sus viejos y enfermos vecinos; árboles sensibles, con emociones, con recuerdos... ¡Increíble, pero cierto!



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Peter Wohlleben, guarda forestal y amante de la naturaleza, nos narra en este libro fascinantes historias sobre las insospechadas y extraordinarias habilidades de los árboles. Asimismo reúne por una parte los últimos descubrimientos científicos sobre el tema, y por otra sus propias experiencias vividas en los bosques; y con todo ello nos ofrece un emocionante punto de vista, una manera de conocer mejor a unos seres vivos con los que creemos estar familiarizados pero de los que desconocemos su capacidad de comunicación, su espiritualidad. Descubramos, gracias a este libro, un mundo totalmente nuevo... (www.edicionesobelisco.com)

Interference / by Sue Burke (2019)

The *Semiosis* story continues in *Interference* as the colonists and a team from Earth confront a new and more implacable intelligence.

Over two hundred years after the first colonists landed on Pax, a new set of explorers arrives from Earth on what they claim is a temporary scientific mission. But the Earthlings misunderstand the nature of the Pax settlement and its real leader. Even as Stevland attempts to protect his human tools, a more insidious enemy than the Earthlings makes itself known.

Stevland is not the apex species on Pax. (<https://semiosispax.com/>)

The Revolutionary Genius of Plants: A New Understanding of Plant Intelligence and Behavior / by Stefano Mancuso (2018)

On the forefront of uncovering the essential truths about plants, world-renowned scientist Stefano Mancuso reveals the surprisingly sophisticated ability of plants to innovate, to remember, and to learn, offering us creative solutions to the most vexing technological and ecological problems that face us today. Despite not having brains or central nervous systems, plants perceive their surroundings with an even greater sensitivity than animals. They efficiently explore and react promptly to potentially damaging external events thanks to their cooperative, shared systems; without any central command centers, they are able to remember prior catastrophic events and to actively adapt to new ones.

Stefano Mancuso's infectious love for plants and for the eye-opening research ... makes it more and more clear how remarkable our fellow inhabitants on this planet really are. In his hands, complicated science is wonderfully accessible, and he has loaded the book with gorgeous photographs that make for an unforgettable reading experience.

(<https://www.simonandschuster.com>)

Thus Spoke the Plant: A Remarkable Journey of Groundbreaking Scientific Discoveries and Personal Encounters with Plants / by Monica Gagliano (2018)



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In this “phytobiography”— a collection of stories written in partnership with a plant – research scientist Monica Gagliano reveals the dynamic role plants play in genuine first-hand accounts from her research into plant communication and cognition. By transcending the view of plants as the objects of scientific materialism, Gagliano encourages us to rethink plants as people – beings with subjectivity, consciousness, and volition, and hence having the capacity for their own perspectives and voices...Gagliano has published numerous peer-reviewed scientific papers on how plants have a Pavlov-like response to stimuli and can learn, remember, and communicate to neighboring plants. She has pioneered the brand-new research field of plant bioacoustics, for the first time experimentally demonstrating that plants emit their own ‘voices’ and, moreover, detect and respond to the sounds of their environments.

(<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com>)

What a Plant Knows: A Field Guide to the Senses / by Daniel Chamovitz (2012)

Renowned biologist Daniel Chamovitz presents an intriguing and scrupulous look at how plants themselves experience the world—from the colors they see to the schedules they keep. Highlighting the latest research in genetics and more, he takes us into the inner lives of plants and draws parallels with the human senses to reveal that we have much more in common with sunflowers and oak trees than we may realize. Chamovitz shows how plants know up from down, how they know when a neighbor has been infested by a group of hungry beetles, and whether they appreciate the Led Zeppelin you've been playing for them or if they're more partial to the melodic riffs of Bach. Covering touch, sound, smell, sight, and even memory, Chamovitz encourages us to consider whether plants might even be aware. (<https://us.macmillan.com>)

Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities / by Amy Stewart (2009)

A tree that sheds poison daggers; a glistening red seed that stops the heart; a shrub that causes paralysis; a vine that strangles; and a leaf that triggered a war. Stewart takes on over two hundred of Mother Nature's most appalling creations in an A to Z of plants that kill, maim, intoxicate, and otherwise offend.

Menacing botanical illustrations and splendidly ghastly drawings create a fascinating portrait of the evildoers that may be lurking in your own backyard. Drawing on history, medicine, science, and legend, this compendium of bloodcurdling botany will entertain, alarm, and enlighten even the most intrepid gardeners and nature lovers. (<https://www.amystewart.com>)



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