Books recommended by Britain’s Royal Horticultural Society

*Sandy Welches, MGV 2005*

*Note from Sandy: I receive their monthly journal, The Garden, which is loaded with useful, science-based articles and studies and gorgeous pictures. Here’s their latest on books.

**The Well-Tended Perennial Garden**, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, 
Timber Press ISBN 9781604697070 (To be released Summer 2017)

With more than 130,000 copies sold since its original publication, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* has proven itself to be one of the most useful tools a gardener can have. Now, in this expanded edition, there’s even more to learn from and enjoy. This is the first, and still the most thorough, book to detail essential practices of perennial care such as deadheading, pinching, cutting back, thinning, disbudding, and deadleafing, all of which are thoroughly explained and illustrated. More than 200 new color photographs have been added to this revised edition, showing perennials in various border situations and providing images for each of the entries in the A to Z encyclopedia of important perennial species. In addition, there is a new 32-page journal section, in which you can enter details, notes, and observations about the requirements and performance of perennials in your own garden. Thousands of readers have commented that *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* is one of the most useful and frequently consulted books in their gardening libraries. This new, expanded edition promises to be an even more effective ally in your quest to create a beautiful, healthy, well-maintained perennial garden.

Book jacket photo: [www.timberpress.com](http://www.timberpress.com)

**Orchid, a Cultural History**, by Jim Endersby, 
Kew Publishing ISBN 9781842466292

Following the stories of orchids throughout history, Jim Endersby divides our attraction to them into four key themes: science, empire, sex, and death. When it comes to empire, for instance, orchids are a prime example of the exotic riches sought by Europeans as they shaped their plans for colonization. He also reveals how Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution became intimately entangled with the story of the orchid as he investigated their methods of cross-pollination. As he shows, orchids—perhaps because of their extraordinarily diverse colors, shapes, and sizes—have also bloomed repeatedly in films, novels, plays, and poems, from Shakespeare to science fiction, from thrillers to elaborate modernist novels.

Featuring many gorgeous illustrations from the collection of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, *Orchid: A Cultural History* tells, for the first time, the extraordinary story of orchids and our prolific interest in them. It is an enchanting tale not only for gardeners and plant collectors, but for anyone curious about the flower’s obsessive hold on the imagination in history, cinema, literature, and more.

Book jacket photo: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
Glorious Shade: Gardening with shade-loving plants, by Jenny Rose Carey, Timber Press
ISBN 9781604696646

Glorious Shade celebrates the benefits of shade and shows you how to make the most of it. This information-rich, hard-working guide is packed with everything you need to successfully garden in the shadiest corners of a yard. You'll learn how to determine what type of shade you have and how to choose the right plants for the space. The book also shares the techniques, design and maintenance tips that are key to growing a successful shade garden. Stunning color photographs offer design inspiration and reveal the beauty of shade-loving plants.

Book jacket photo: www.timberpress.com