Reading about Gardening

The fire in the wood stove reminds me that it is time to catch up on all those magazines and books that have been carefully stacked beside my chair. There’s nothing better than watching the snowflakes fall and reading about vine-ripe tomatoes or new flowers for the garden!

My favorite “must read as soon as it arrives” magazine is the “Ohio Gardener”. Pam Bennett, state coordinator for the OSUE Master Gardener Volunteers, is a contributing writer and answers gardening questions in her column, Ask the Expert. My other favorite magazine is “Fine Gardening” which has lots of new ideas for the garden. My favorite feature of this magazine is the Pronunciation Guide! I always go to the back of the magazine and practice pronouncing the botanical names of the plants in that issue. I know…kind of a “plant geek” thing to do, but it’s fun!

Some gardeners are getting rid of their books and just using the internet as their source when researching, but I am still the reader who wants to hold that book in her hands and study the pictures and re-read phrases that could shed some light on gardening questions. I always have a pad of paper and pencil handy, as well as a highlighter.

When I visit a bookstore, I head straight to the gardening reference books and start looking for new titles. It seems that one butterfly book just doesn’t provide all the needed information, so I have ended up with about 10 favorites that cover life cycle, host plants, etc. So goes it with wildflowers, trees, mushrooms, prairie plants….get the picture?

My resolution for 2021 is to finally get my books organized!


When I head downstairs to my “library” of gardening books I feel like I am surrounded by good friends. Whether it’s learning more about caterpillars or gardening year-round, I know “there’s a book for that” on one of my shelves or it is at the top of wish list!

What are your favorite “reads”? I am a sucker for books filled with color photographs. My reference books with black and white drawings have moved to the bottom shelf because I just cannot stand to get rid of them, I think another bookshelf should be on my wish list for this year!