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## **AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NAMES WINNERS OF 2021 AHS BOOK AWARDS**

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** (March 22, 2021) -- The American Horticultural Society (AHS) has selected two winners of its annual book award program recognizing outstanding gardening literature published in North America. Nominated books are judged by the AHS Book Award Committee on qualities such as writing style, authority, scientific accuracy, design, and illustrations. Because successful books are necessarily a collaborative effort, these awards are presented jointly to the authors and publishers.

From the more than 40 garden books published in 2020 that were nominated for consideration in this year's award program, the two books selected to receive the 2021 AHS Book Award are:

- **“The Complete Book of Ferns”** by Mobe Weinstein ([Cool Springs Press](#)).  
Mobe Weinstein, foreman of gardeners for outdoor gardens at the New York Botanical Garden, offers readers an in-depth, yet not overwhelming, ode to the fern. Within its pages are sections on the history of the fern, botany, growing techniques, profiles of 70 different varieties, and even fern projects. Judge Amy Champion appreciated that the book includes both indoor and outdoor ferns contributing to its appeal to gardeners and houseplant aficionados alike. The judges were impressed by the beautiful photographs throughout; Viveka Neveln noted that making a book visually appealing when the plant photographs are mostly green is no small feat. This is Weinstein's first AHS Book Award.
- **“Plant Partners: Science-Based Companion Planting Strategies for the Vegetable Garden”** by [Jessica Walliser](#) ([Storey Publishing](#)).  
Bringing science-based evidence to the lore and old wives' tales, author Jessica Walliser brings a fresh approach to companion planting and eye-opening information about plant interactions above and underground. Susan Eubank, judge and botanical librarian, declared that the book, “made me happy” because of its practicality and ease of use. Kim Toscano Holmes commended the author for taking the time to “compile all the research and put it together in a really great package.” She has found that there is a growing interest in this topic and feels comfortable pointing people to an evidence-based resource. This is Walliser's second AHS Book Award.

The 2021 AHS Book Award Committee was chaired by **William Aldrich**, past president and fellow of GardenComm, Garden Communicators International from Springfield, Missouri. Other members include **Kimberly Toscano Holmes**, a freelance communicator and professional horticulturist based in Stillwater, Oklahoma; **Susan Eubank**, an arboretum librarian at Los Angeles County Arboretum and

Botanic Garden; **Amy Champion**, a Portland, Oregon-based freelance writer and co-author of *Gardening in the Pacific Northwest*; **Viveka Neveln**, garden editor for BHG.com in Des Moines, Iowa; **Doug Oster**, garden writer, television producer, and host from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and **Caleb Melchior**, a Fort Myers, Florida based landscape architect, writer, and podcaster.

The two award-winning books were among a pool of 10 books that emerged as top candidates from the books nominated for this year's award. Other books in the final 10 the committee members considered are: *Growing Under Cover: Techniques for a More Productive, Weather-Resistant, Pest-Free Vegetable Garden* by Niki Jabbour. Storey Publishing. *Growing Weed in the Garden: A NoFuss, Seed-to-Stash Guide to Outdoor Cannabis Cultivation* by Johanna Silver. Abrams. *Grow Your Soil!: Harness the Power of the Soil Food Web to Create Your Best Garden Ever* by Diane Miessler. Storey Publishing. *Herbarium: The Quest to Preserve and Classify the World's Plants* by Barbara M. Theirs. Timber Press. *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy. Timber Press. *Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again* by Page Dickey. Timber Press. *The Wardian Case: How a Simple Box Moved Plants and Changed the World* by Luke Keogh. University of Chicago Press. *Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants, and Gardens* by Daniel J. Hinkley. Timber Press.

For more information on this year's recipients, please visit our [2021 Book Awards Winners](#) page. Photographs of the award winners and additional information about the awards program are available upon request by contacting Katherine Somerville at [ksomerville@ahsgardening.org](mailto:ksomerville@ahsgardening.org) or calling (703) 768-5700, ext. 121.

### **About the American Horticultural Society**

Founded in 1922, the American Horticultural Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization committed to modeling, educating about, and advocating for earth-friendly and sustainable gardening practices. Our mission is to share with all Americans the critical role of plants, gardens, and green spaces in creating healthy, livable communities and a sustainable planet. To learn more, visit <https://ahsgardening.org>.

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