



# **My Summer in a Garden (Modern Library Gardening)**

*Charles Dudley Warner*

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Oft quoted but seldom credited, Charles Dudley Warner's *My Summer in a Garden* is a classic of American garden writing and was a seminal early work in the then fledgling genre of American nature writing.

Warner—prominent in his day as a writer and newspaper editor—was a dedicated amateur gardener who shared with Mark Twain, his close friend and neighbor, a sense of humor that remains deliciously fresh today.

In monthly dispatches, Warner chronicles his travails in the garden, where he and his cat, Calvin, seek to ward off a stream of interlopers, from the neighbors' huge-hoofed cows and thieving children, to the reviled, though "propagatious," pusley weed. To read Warner is to join him on his rounds of his beloved vegetable patch, to feel the sun on his sore back, the hoe in his blistered hands, and yet, like him, never to lose sight of "the philosophical implications of contact with the earth, and companionship with gently growing things."

This Modern Library edition is published with an extensive new Introduction by Allan Gurganus, author of *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* and *The Practical Heart*.

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