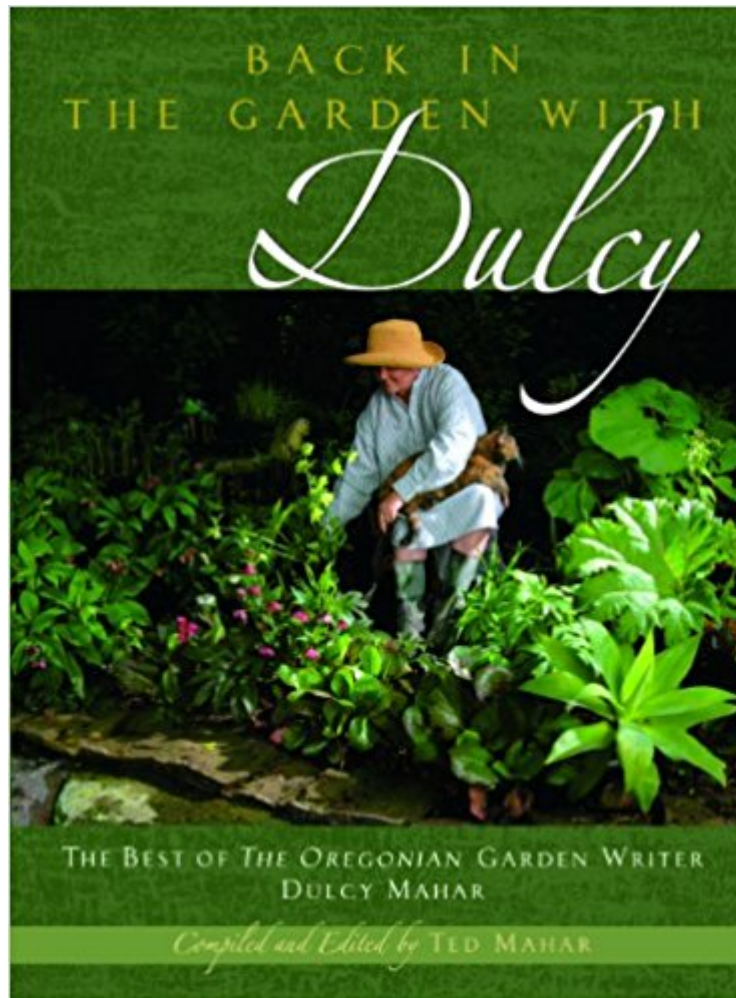




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# Back In The Garden With Dulcy



## Synopsis

How Did Dulcy Mahar ....become a rock star of the Northwest gardening community? By writing a column for The Oregonian that didn't preach slavish imitation to your next-door neighbor's immaculately mowed lawn and trimmed hedges, and charm as she shared her weekly triumphs and humiliating mistakes, Dulcy always reassured her readers that it was okay. As a gardener, I learn by trial and error, and error, and error, she blithely confessed. Dulcy's column ran for more than twenty-two years, showing her readers there was adventure and beauty in their own backyards. Her columns were packed with solidly researched direction and knowledge sprinkled with wit. Her fan base ranged from beginners to master gardeners. When Dulcy died of ovarian cancer in July 2011, devoted readers begged for her columns to be reprinted. Through Dulcy's editor, they urged her husband, Ted, to write a book. In **BACK IN THE GARDEN WITH DULCY**, Ted Mahar (who spent four decades as The Oregonian chief film critic) reflects on their nearly fifty-year marriage, surrounded by beloved cats and dogs, and a garden that served as a laboratory for her columns. He has also selected 140 of Dulcy's most popular and requested columns for this special volume, which is complemented by more than 140 color photographs. Remarkably, Dulcy had virtually no horticultural training. With the help of her garden partner (a regular column character she called Doug the Wonder Boy), she created walking paths, sitting areas, vegetable and rose beds, and more, always sharing her discoveries with her readers who thought of her as the best friend I never met. Through her victories and failures, Dulcy bonded with them all. **BACK IN THE GARDEN WITH DULCY** is a beautiful volume that reminds us of the pleasures we derive from tending our gardens.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Whether a novice or advanced gardener, or anything in-between, Dulcy's writing had broad appeal for everyone. Her columns made me reflect on my own mistakes, gave me new ideas and made me laugh about taking gardening too seriously. She was a garden treasure and her loss is deeply felt.

--Mike Darcy, host of IN THE GARDEN/KXL AM Radio  
Back in the Garden With Dulcy is a beautiful reminder of Dulcy's humor, generosity and dedication. It's clear she loved her readers as much as they loved her. --Kym Pokorny, Garden Writer, The Oregonian's "Home & Gardens of the Northwest"  
I learned two things from Dulcy's columns, Never take gardening too seriously and there's always room for one more plant. --Lori Volmer, co-owner, Garden Fever

Ted Mahar spent four decades at The Oregonian as a film and television critic, where he reviewed thousands of films and TV programs, attended film festivals and forums, interviewed actors, directors others working in the film industry. He was married to Dulcy Mahar, who wrote her popular garden column for The Oregonian for more than two decades. He lives in the Garthwick neighborhood of South East Portland, where he continues to maintain his wife's famous garden with her long-time garden partner, Douglas Wilson. This is his first book.

I came to Dulcy's wisdom and humor late. She was in remission and as soon as I started reading her column I hoped she'd live forever. I laughed so hard and learned so much until I had to cry because she was gone. She was an animal lover, a people lover and a garden lover. I've never read a garden expert/appreciator I liked--no, loved as much as Dulcy. Sometimes she was quite serious, sometimes goofy, but always well worth the time I spent reading and rereading her Saturday column. I had so much garden guilt and she got me over that and I will be forever grateful to her. She solved some mysteries for me, too,,mysteries no one else had even mentioned, let alone solved. She was an expert, but she seemed like so many of the rest of us, a struggling amateur who I never gave up on that marvelous patch of green.I was disappointed with the pictures, but it's the prose that counts.If you love gardens and garden people, you'll love this book.

I have wanted to read this since 1st published.....as an avid gardener and follower of Dulcy's columns I was not disappointed....what a gal....Doug the wonder Boy turned Man had a rare privilege in working with and talking with her for so many years. I am most grateful to her husband for having the courage to write/publish such a book...indeed very lucky people to have found one another!!!

This book is for any gardener at any level. It is Dulcey's wonderful legacy, full of her common sense approach to gardening and her delightful sense of humor. I followed her column in the Oregonian for many years hoping she would one day write her own book. Although that was not to be, her widowed husband has created this tribute to a most remarkable lady. She is kind of the Erma Bombeck of gardening.

I have had the pleasure as a resident of Portland, OR and avid gardener to have met Dulcey and tour her fabulous garden over the last 20 years. The garden community was devastated at her passing but this book keeps her humorous voice and unique garden perspective alive. I love, love, love this book and know that I will continue to pick it up when needing a good laugh and/or validation of my own personal garden style. Many thanks to her husband, Ted for sharing this precious gift of Dulcey's witty and ever helpful garden columns.

Overall, I loved the book. I really enjoyed the biography section. The pictures were great. The columns were funny mixed with gardening advice. I personally would have liked a chronological order instead of by topic. There was some repetition in the subject matter, I would have liked more of her favorite plant lists. Unfortunately, my copy had a large ink blot in the middle, which was disappointing as it was a first edition, I would have liked it to be perfect. I would highly recommend this book.

Dulcey Mahar was the best garden columnist we've ever had the pleasure of reading. We miss her columns greatly and this book has many examples of why.

Dulcey always wrote such wonderful columns. I used to save them in a folder to read again and again. So nice to have so many compiled in one place.. Even though she was an extraordinary gardener she was able to admit to mistakes with charm and laughter and never made you feel like you might not be worthy of calling yourself a "real" gardener if you didn't know how to pronounce Latin names. Just a wonderful book

This book is everything I hoped it would be when Ted said he was going to do it. I watched carefully in anticipation of its release. For Dulcey, no question was dumb, and every garden was a work of art regardless of the gardener's level of skill. She relieved me of all guilt over my annual plant gluttony

and spending. I have a substantial stack of her columns that I cut from the Oregonian, and I would go back to read them once in a while. Now I have this treasure.

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