



Book Information

Roots Demystified

Change Your Gardening Habits to Help Roots Thrive

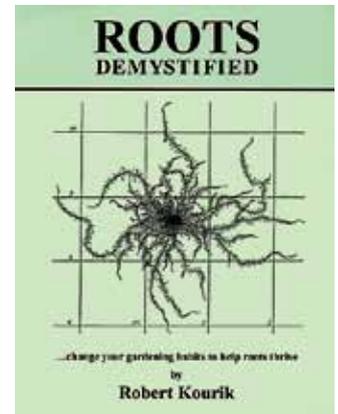
By Robert Kourik

Gardeners interested in sustainability will find *Roots Demystified* an invaluable resource. Roots are the key to sustainable gardening and this book offers the key insights into the hidden world below the surface.

Roots Demystified is an outstanding compilation and a distillation of the current information about plant roots. It contains 25 meticulous scale drawings and 70 astonishingly detailed pictures which are an education and delight in themselves. Written with wit and insight, this excellent handbook, from the author of the acclaimed *Designing & Maintaining Your Edible Landscape*, naturally deserves a vital a place on every gardener's reference shelf.

The roots described are: lawns, shrubs, vegetables, fruit trees, and native and ornamental trees, with soil fertility and irrigation also covered. Guidelines for how a gardener can use this information are offered with each root illustration, along with many more illustrations and discussions.

Kourik has made complicated information easily accessible and this book will make everyone – both beginners and the more advanced – *better gardeners*.



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Illustrations: 25 b/w line drawings and 70 diagrams

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What people are saying about **ROOTS DEMYSTIFIED**

In the early 1980s Robert Kourik stumbled upon some horticultural gold dust lying on a dusty shelf in the University of California. It was the long-forgotten work of Professor John Weaver, who had meticulously drawn the entire root systems of a number of different plants. The descriptive parts of *Roots Demystified* make full use of Weaver's remarkable drawings and are backed up by frequent sections headed 'Practical tips for gardeners'. All is told in Kourik's direct and simple style with a rich vein of humour. It's definitely a book I would recommend to any serious gardener.

Patrick Whitefield, author of Earth Care Manual

A rare combination of first hand observation, research, humour and the author's practicality make for a refreshingly-original look at roots.

Joy Larkcom, author of Grow Your Own Vegetables

Highly recommended! This book is an outstanding compilation and distillation of the most current information about plant roots. Written with wit and insight, it contains just the sort of economically and ecologically practical information one can only learn from an experienced gardener.

Peter H. Raven, president of Missouri Botanical Garden

What a book! Robert Kourik's underground pursuit has unearthed a great treasure, a guide both wondrous and eminently practical.

Roger B. Swain, science editor of Horticulture magazine and host of PBS-TV's The Victory Garden

We are grateful to have John Weaver's important root work made available to people everywhere through Robert Kourik's new book. Everyone needs a better sense of their roots, and *Roots Demystified* will help a lot.

John Jeavons, author of How to Grow More Vegetables Than You Ever Thought Possible on Less Land Than You Can Imagine

Roots Demystified is filled with practical advice that every gardener should know—both beginning and advanced gardeners. Robert connects the dots between what we already know and new information.

Rosalind Creasy, author of The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping

A gold mine of fascinating facts about the secret life of plants under the ground. Kourik has spent a lifetime studying plants, both as a professional gardener and as journalist hunting down the truth hidden in horticultural research. In this book he has pulled all that together into a coherent story about the way plants and soils really interact. While the focus of *Roots Demystified* is most squarely on trees and shrubs, the book is one of the best I have read on how to get plants of any kind to grow, and grow well.

Jack Ruttle, Garden Design magazine