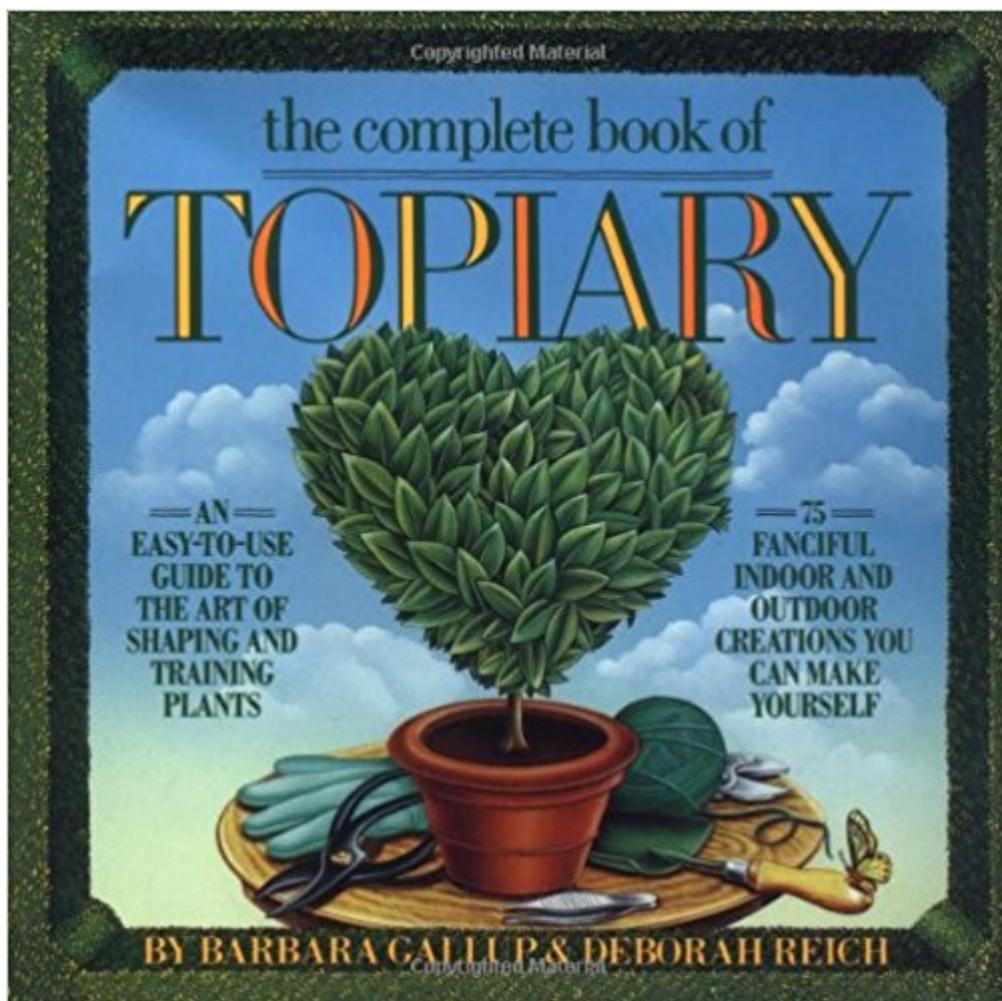


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# The Complete Book Of Topiary



## **Synopsis**

Presenting all the methods of formal plant shaping and introducing simple, fun, and fanciful techniques for creating informal indoor topiaries, *Totally Topiary* is clear, comprehensive, and written with an irrepressible passion for the art of making plants into living sculpture. From hedge sculpture and espalier to indoor creations and an entire chapter on ivy, all major topiary styles both new and old are covered. Over 100 specific projects in the eight different styles are offered for a variety of skills and purposes, accompanied by handsome line drawings that serve as step-by-step models and elegant inspiration. Each chapter is complete unto itself, recommending plants (Japanese yew is the hardiest for outdoor sculpture, but azalea can be coaxed into a startling pink flamingo), sharing design hints (espaliered fruit trees provide privacy from the neighbors with practical elegance), noting ideal times to plant. They also offer specifics on tools and hardware need, plus pruning and maintenance tips. A wealth of fascinating stories and charming anecdotes places each style in historical context, and helpful features list plant sources nationwide, along with topiary showcases worth visiting. 97,000 copies in print.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

People attracted to the craft of changing plants into fanciful shapes should welcome this book by Gallup, owner of a company specializing in "Totally Topiary," and horticulturist Reich, who has worked at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the New York World Trade Center. An intriguing history of topiary sculpture precedes chapters with detailed directions on producing effects like the

examples shown in numerous drawings. These are birds, beasts, stars, the moon, etc., coaxed from trees, hedges and vines. Some are a bit twee chairs and tables, a whole faux garden of ivy but there is enough variety to suit more modest tastes. Espaliered fruit trees, a maze and a knot garden are among the features illustrated in chapters that close with a glossary, a list of supply sources and other particulars. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Topiary, as defined in the book's glossary, is "the art of shaping plants, by clipping and training, to create living sculptures." The authors, well-known horticulturists, provide chapters on traditional designs for hedges, trees, and espalier displays, and also cover container topiary, ivy training, knot gardens, and frame making. They give a historical context for each chapter, but emphasize application, presenting instructions for 75 projects. Their advice includes recommended plants, design hints, tools and supplies, and maintenance. The format is clear and readable, and the illustrations appealing. Novices and specialists will be delighted by this highly recommended book.

Douglas G. Birdsall, North Dakota State Univ. Lib., Fargo Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A very informative book for constructing one's own topiary forms. I had this book YEARS ago and it got misplaced during a move. I was so pleased that it was still in print and that I was able to replace it~especially at a such a reasonable price. I was able to construct a 33" peacock of my own design and look forward to making more forms soon.

Great item! Great seller!

The book had a lot of tips, but the instructions were a little hard to follow.

This is a good book but I found the instructions hard to follow. I love looking at the pictures and the thought of creating the topiary's but doing it is another thing for me! (A little harder for me to do than it looks in the book!)

The book is lacking in some of the specifics of forming the topiary shapes, but has some good ideas throughout.

Featuring interesting historical information, this book includes many backgrounds of formal gardens

and topiary, offered as sidebars and archive drawings. There is extensive information on creating forms and shaping topiary. The illustrator's drawings echo the whimsical sentiment of topiary, while the authors' offering of botanical information help the hobbyist understand the science of what they are doing. I cannot imagine anyone reading this book and not bursting with ideas to make their own gardens come to life.

As difficult as it is to find information on the art of topiary, this disappointing book gives a very vague picture. Perhaps the most frustrating thing about the book is the illustrations. It seems more like a comic strip than an information resource. For instance the 3 or 4 pages given to standards shows hand drawn renderings that look like my 5 year old drew them. It is interesting that they devoted so many pages to different types of wire shapes. It seems obvious to me that vines will grow on a rack shaped like a bird, and they will grow on a rack shaped like an elephant. I just didn't "get" showing us all the different shapes, and giving them all their own page. Good book for the novice, check it out at the library however, there isn't much reason to own it.

Before reading this book I had no experience with topiary. After reading this book I felt like I knew a little. I found that the text focuses on the history of the use of topiary. There were some sections on what plants to use and there was a LONG section on creating different wire forms. The illustrations are all hand drawn while I would have preferred to see actual pictures of the plants. This book is probably better for someone who knows a little about gardening basics instead of someone like me who knows nothing.

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