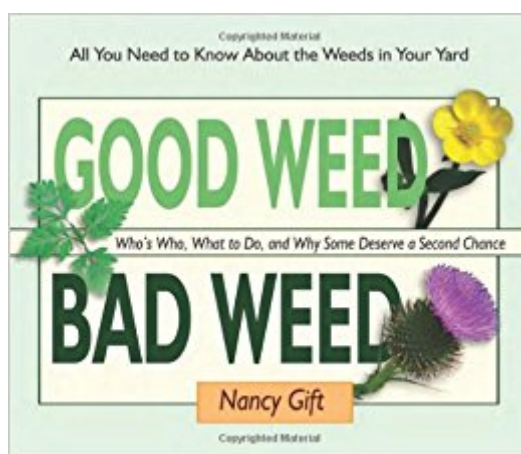


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# Good Weed Bad Weed: Who's Who, What To Do, And Why Some Deserve A Second Chance (All You Need To Know About The Weeds In Your Yard)



## Synopsis

Good Weed Bad Weed is a friendly, authoritative, easy-to-use guide to the uninvited plants in our yard: who they are, how to control them safely - and why it's a good idea to love some of them just the way they are (including a chart for how best to let our labor-intensive lawns "go native"). Weed expert Nancy Gift considers 50 of the most interesting and noteworthy weeds in our lives, with generous helpings of full-color photos, humor and some tasty weed recipes. Presented in the same format as our popular field guide to garden insects, Good Bug Bad Bug, with heavy matte-laminated pages and concealed-wire binding for handy use outside. An attractive gift book for adults and curious kids alike.

## Book Information

Spiral-bound: 104 pages

Publisher: St. Lynn's Press; Spi edition (February 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0981961568

ISBN-13: 978-0981961569

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.8 x 7.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #286,458 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Lawns #679 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Plants #6734 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology

## Customer Reviews

Who Are You Calling A Weed? . . . Are you worried about all the weeds in your yard? Well, set your mind at ease. Weed scientist Nancy Gift will show you surprising ways that weeds can enrich your life. It might be time to let your yard go a little bit "native." Good Weed Bad Weed is the quick and easy, authoritative weed ID book, featuring 44 of North America's most common uninvited guests "the good, the bad, and the not-so-bad" along with some tasty weed recipes (purslane salad, anyone?). Finally! the ultimate guide to weeds: from the bad to the good, and even great. I love this book! A must for every homeowner and gardener.

"Doug Oster, author of Tomatoes Garlic Basil; co-author of Grow Organic, "Nancy has a way of making us rethink our attitudes about weeds." In fact, I began to feel proud of my acres of nitrogen-fixing clover and a bit remiss that I did not harvest my purslane for dinner.

â “Â Â Â Â Â Jeneen Wiche, garden writer, radio hostÂ

Nancy Gift is an assistant professor of environmental studies and acting director of The Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. Previously, she wrote a book of garden essays, *A Weed by Any Other Name: The Virtues of a Messy Lawn, or Learning to Love the Plants We Don't Plant* (Beacon Press, May 2009). Praise for *A Weed by Any Other Name*: NY Times Book Review, Dominique Browning: "I can thank Gift, a highly trained weed scientist, for the day I gave up on my lawn and planted clover." The Ethicurean, Holly Hickman: "Gift knows her stuff." The Midwest Book Review: "...a read that anybody who wants a new philosophy of lawn care will love."

The marketing concept of this book, "Good Weed, Bad Weed", is attractive, as is the book's layout. It's fun and catchy. It's very good for a novice gardener who knows little about weeds. But like "Good Bug, Bad Bug", it is very light on knowledge for the slightly more seasoned gardener. Weeds that I am encountering are not listed; others that I've found to be real pests are listed as "good weeds" or "not-so-bad weeds". If you really want to identify and learn about weeds, find a more solid, comprehensive book. Or, if you get this book, make sure you have other serious and substantial resources to supplement it.

An interesting little book. I didn't know what to expect and bought it on a whim, but it does have good photos and information. Small enough to carry around the lawn or garden easily. I don't agree with all Ms. Gift's ideas on "good weeds", but that does not detract from my enjoyment of her writing style or the usefulness of the book for weed identification.

I like it as it specifically helps me choose what weeds I might just control and let stay in the garden. As some one said "a weed is just a plant with a bad marketing program". Some are quite pretty--just not in large numbers that drown out the rest of the garden. Some are very invasive and if not eradicated will soon dominate the garden. With the use of this book, I've isolated a few "weeds" and kept them down to three plants and let them bloom with good effect. Next year I'll probably hit the area with a good pre emergent. Like its companion, *Good Bug/Bad Bug*, it is a nice addition to the garden library of the common gardener.

Lots of good info. I don't like it as much as *Good Bug Bad Bug* but it is still informative enough to

keep. I did have a young friend over who is just now beginning to explore gardening and she LOVED it. All of the information in it was new to her and she asked me where I got it so she could get herself one. So maybe it depends on how much experience you already have with weeds how much you will like this book.

As someone who has always believed that the only good weed is a dead weed I approached this book with suspicion and doubt. After reading it, I still have a few doubts, but I will admit that Ms. Gift makes an honest, sincere, and somewhat persuasive argument. Even if, after reading it, you are not ready to turn your lawn into a showplace for "good" weeds, you will at least have a better idea of what you are dealing with and how best to deal with it. And in the end all one should expect from a book is that it gives you good information and allows you to make up your own mind and this book certainly does that.

I moved to KY several years ago and always wondered if plants I see in the garden was planted by the person living here before. Some were pretty some were not. I kept pestering my wife and neighbors but they kept ignoring me. This book has it all.. Now when I go to the garden to weed, I just take this handy and sturdy book to help me weed..

It's wonderful to have several illustrations, actual photos, of the plant in different stages. I love knowing what each plant growing in the garden is, weed or not. I was able to identify many local plants and realize some I was naming wrong. Good book to give garden lovers.

The only quibble I have with this book is that (IMHO anyway) there are a number of weeds classified as "good" (meaning relatively innocuous) that (again IMHO) should be placed in the Bad category. I do get where the author is coming from but to see wild onion/wild garlic -- which is the utter bane of my gardening existence and has territorial ambitions second only to that displayed by the Soviet Union during the 1960s -- described as a "good weed" practically made me retch. Nutsedge, too, is described as a "Not So Bad Weed" when in fact it would probably survive a nuclear winter and come back stronger than ever. I also take serious issue with the author's claim that nutsedge "is probably not worth controlling" in a lawn; clearly she has never seen it take over a large part of one in less than 3 seasons, as its tubers are perennial.

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