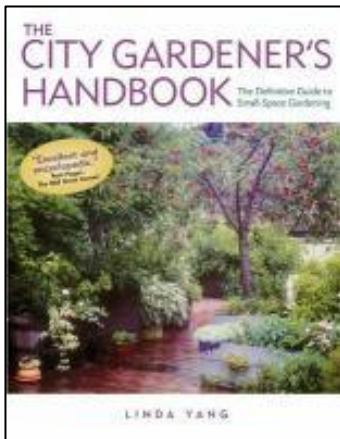
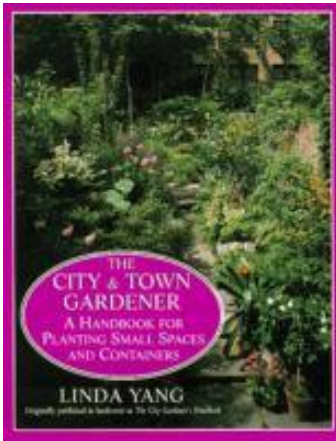


The CITY GARDENER'S HANDBOOK: The definitive Guide to small-space gardening

Many gardening books assume we have suburban size lots with large areas of land to garden. This book specifically focuses on the challenges and solutions to small space gardening. While we have some expansive lots in our area, many of us divide our garden's into smaller sections, making this book relevant to us. As an Edgebrook gardener, I generally focus on one small section of my lot to update and change every few years. Breaking my lot into manageable sections, I have worked my way around my house. Ultimately, I have succeeded in creating a cohesive landscape that is designed for wildlife as well as my family. This book has been a reference in my library for many years.

The author, Linda Yang, has 3 different books available at the Chicago Public Library. They are:

- City Gardener-s Handbook, the definitive guide to small space gardening
- The City and Town Gardener,
- and the City Gardener's Handbook, from balcony to backyard.



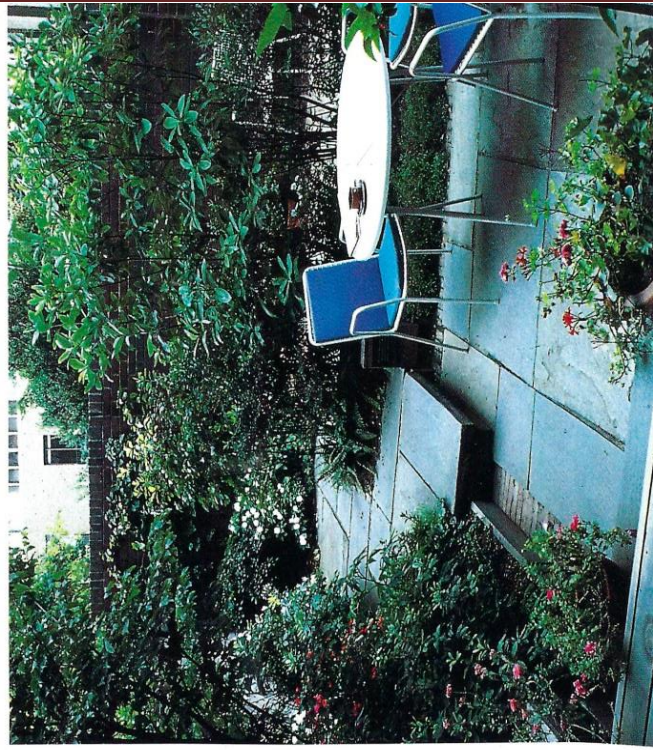
The two City Gardener books are variations on the same book, with some differences. Each of her books features a collection of before and after photos, illustrating the issues and incredible changes that can be achieved with some thoughtful landscaping. For a number of profiled gardens in these books, you will find a thorough discussion of the issues, planning and solutions. Often, she includes a schematic of the garden design for that highlighted space.

There is a lot of helpful information on screening views to block unattractive buildings, garages and alleys. As a warning, there are many high-rise patios and balconies featured in these books. They have precious little space to work with, yet the results are amazing. These books highlight a variety of ways to draw the eye away from bad views, while creating more gardening space with vertical and layered garden plans, all while covering a wide range of issues from small city balconies and yards, to somewhat larger areas. None of the areas in these books are really very large. However, it highlights a variety of plant materials and discusses specific plant options in detail.

In chapter 7 of the City Gardeners Handbook, Linda talks in great detail about how to properly prepare and insulate your pots, to grow shrubs and trees in containers and have them survive the winter, without dragging them into your garage.

If you are looking for ideas on how to make more of your lot useable, these books offer an interesting perspective on solutions that may make your yard, whatever size it is, a more inviting and intimate space.

LIBRARY BOOK OF INTEREST: City Gardening



Plantings are arranged perpendicular to the side wall to create diagonal movement and visually divide a small Philadelphia garden. Large paving stones and a change of level add an illusion of space to the 16- by 20-foot site. Rainwater, collected in sunken perforated borders around the paving edges, is directed into the soil.

Andrew Poppen Associates, Ltd.

Plan for this garden is shown on opposite page.

