



Grabherr, G. & L. Lammerhuber

## Ein Garten für das 21. Jahrhundert – A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Garden

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At the edge of Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, eminent botanist Georg Grabherr and his wife Gertraud have created a domestic garden around their home and incorporated key biosphere reserve concepts. Their private garden is no wilderness area but they allow native wild plants to grow alongside regional and foreign cultivars.

Award-winning photographer Lois Lammerhuber is a personal friend and has captured this amazing space throughout a whole gardening year. His photographs introduce us to an unusual but convincing garden aesthetic.

To reproduce the photographs at their best, the volume is conceived as a coffee table book, in a fairly large format and printed on special paper. This fact should not lead us to assume that the text plays a subordinate role.

Georg and Gertraud Grabherr guide us through the phenological seasons that divide the year by the arrival of key species, from crocuses to summer-flowering *Yellow Yankees* to late dahlias. Ten textual excursions cover themes dear to the gardeners' hearts, such as plant communities, weeds, leaves and leaf fall, pests and the night in the garden. True to the spirit of biosphere reserves, the Grabherrs engage in a dialogue with nature, *thoughtfully accepting and using what is wild and spontaneous*, living with the limitations of their geographical location and yet ensuring a sea of flowers through creative use of what is there and what natural processes throw at them. So the dead apricot tree becomes a trellis for a climbing rose and tall perennials keep so-called weeds in check by depriving them of sunlight.

This is no *how-to* gardening book but a carefully crafted volume of photographs and texts that invite the reader to embrace the idea of Man and the Biosphere in domestic gardens. If enough people take this up, private gardens may indeed become Noah's Arks of biodiversity.

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