WEEDS IN THE GARDEN OF WORDS

If the English language is a glorious garden, filled with exotic hybrids and the continuing tradition of heritage specimens, then it is no surprise that we will also find some weeds. Linguistic weeds may have pronunciations we don’t want or constructions that are out of place. We may be trying to hold on to words and usage we should perhaps have said farewell to. But as all gardeners know, what one gardener calls a ‘weed’, another may call a ‘flower’. The same goes for words and their usage in English – sometimes we just haven’t realized their virtues.

Kate Burridge follows the international success of her book *Blooming English* with another entertaining excursion into the ever-changing nature of our complex and captivating language.

Kate Burridge is Professor of Linguistics at Monash University. She has published widely on English language and linguistics and is well known for her broadcasts on ABC Radio’s Soundback.
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Further observations on the tangled history of the English language

Kate Burridge
And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.

Genesis 3:17–18
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