

THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF LITERATURE
AND PLANTS

The first of its kind, this wide-ranging, accessible handbook covers literary engagement with plants in over 2000 years of writing from around the world. It includes within its broad ambit historical periods of Latin, Norse, and Anglophone plant literatures, prominent plant genres, and the literatures of major global regions. Chapters explore the history of literary thinking about plants as creatures that do or do not resemble us; our use of plants to negotiate geo-political conflict; the ethical dimension of plant sensibilities; the moral dimension of our desire to engage aesthetically with plants; the ways in which human–plant relations have been used to make and unmake national and ethnic identities; the role of plant-writing in the development of literary form; and the ways we have used plants to navigate modernity’s cultural and intellectual shift from theological engagement with the created world to the discourses of modern science.

BONNIE LANDER JOHNSON is a Fellow and Associate Professor at Downing College, Cambridge University. Her academic books include *Chastity in Early Stuart Literature and Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), *Blood Matters* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), and *Botanical Culture and Popular Belief in Shakespeare’s England* (Cambridge University Press, 2024). She also writes fiction and non-fiction about early modernity and our changing relationship to the natural world.

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-108-83773-6 — The Cambridge Handbook of Literature and Plants
Edited by Bonnie Lander Johnson
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

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education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108837736

DOI: 10.1017/9781108942690

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108942690

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Johnson, Bonnie Lander, 1977- editor.

TITLE: The Cambridge handbook of literature and plants / edited by Bonnie Lander Johnson.

Other titles: Handbook of literature and plants

DESCRIPTION: First edition. | Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2024. |
Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2024019850 (print) | LCCN 2024019851 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108837736
(hardback) | ISBN 9781108931809 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108942690 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Plants in literature.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PN56.P52 C36 2024 (print) | LCC PN56.P52 (ebook) |
DDC 802–dc23/eng/20240524

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024019850>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024019851>

ISBN 978-1-108-83773-6 Hardback

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or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
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Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of Contributors</i>	viii
 Introduction <i>Bonnie Lander Johnson</i>	 I
 PART I HISTORICAL PERIODS	
1 The Ancient World: Us and Them <i>Rebecca Armstrong</i>	7
2 Inspective Fruits: Plants in Early Christian Literature <i>Clare Lapraik Guest</i>	23
3 Plant Lives in the Literatures of Medieval England <i>Michael D. J. Bintley</i>	51
4 Plant-Lore in the Botanical Renaissance: Grafting Myth and Science <i>Todd Borlik</i>	68
5 Literary Plants: Eighteenth to Nineteenth Century <i>Stephen Bending</i>	90
6 Portraits of Plants: Nineteenth to Twentieth Century <i>Claudia Tobin</i>	109
 PART II ANGLOPHONE LITERARY FORMS	
7 Useful Books: Herbals and Gardening Manuals <i>Jessica Rosenberg</i>	131

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
8	Shakespeare's Plants Then and Now <i>Bonnie Lander Johnson</i>	149
9	Metaphysical Subjects and Cavalier Objects in Seventeenth-Century Plant Lyrics <i>Robert N. Watson</i>	166
10	Speculative Fiction and the Contemporary Novel <i>Timothy S. Miller</i>	193
11	Aftermath: Thinking and Healing with Grass in Contemporary Poetry <i>Holly Corfield Carr</i>	213
PART III GLOBAL REGIONS		
12	Plants in the French and Francophone Literary Tradition <i>Giulia Pacini</i>	233
13	Early American Plant Writing <i>Michael Ziser</i>	251
14	Plants in the Literatures of Latin America and the Caribbean <i>Lesley Wylie</i>	268
15	Plants in the Literatures of Australia <i>John Charles Ryan</i>	285
16	Plants in the Literatures of Southern Africa <i>Dan Wylie</i>	304
17	Lotus: An Un-Still Life in the Literatures of China <i>Xiaofei Tian</i>	325
18	Plants in the Literatures of India <i>Sourit Bhattacharya</i>	343
19	Tree-Rings of Middle Eastern Poetry <i>Efe Khayyat</i>	362
	<i>Select Bibliography</i>	381
	<i>Index</i>	386

Figures

4.1	John Gerard, <i>Herbal</i> (1597)	<i>page</i> 75
5.1	‘A Bagnigge Wells Scene, or No Resisting Temptation’ (1776)	95
6.1	‘The Artist at the Flower-Shows’ (April 1862)	110
10.1	<i>Weird Tales</i> (1928)	197
10.2	<i>Amazing Stories</i> (1927)	201

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List of Contributors

ix

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List of Contributors

xi

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List of Contributors

xiii

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