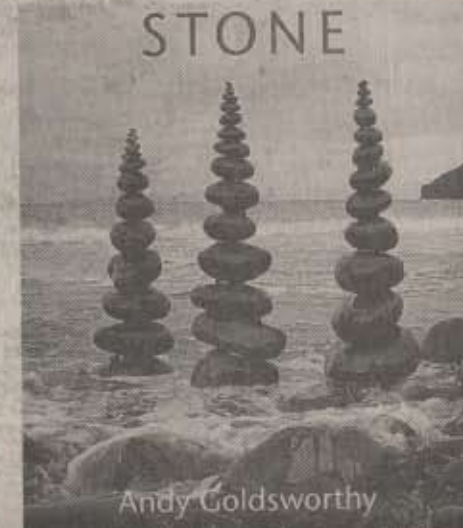
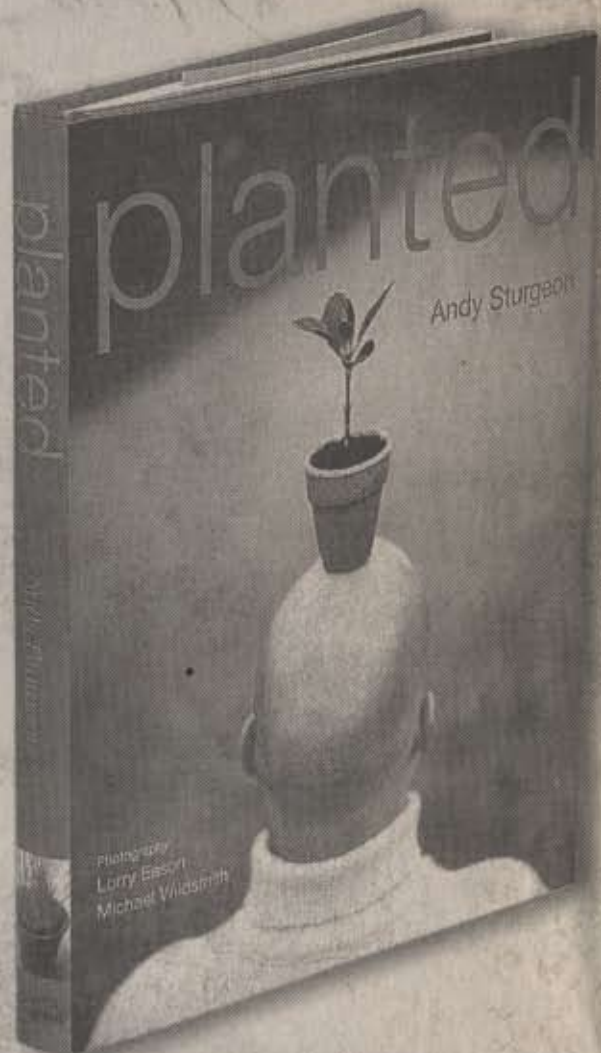


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istmas present series, the Weekend gardening team recommend favourite books



Sarah Raven

Planted by Andy Sturgeon (Hodder & Stoughton, £20). For those who have never gardened before, who don't own a trowel or spade and would not know a box from a laurel, this is the book that I would recommend.

Gardener Cook by Christopher Lloyd (Frances Lincoln £20). This book about growing and cooking fruit and vegetables tells you which varieties to grow and which not to, how to plant or sow, what and when to pick; how to store and how to cook all the things you have grown in delicious, mostly old-fashioned, ways.

In Your Garden and In Your Garden Again (tapes of Vita Sackville West's garden diary books) (Cover to Cover Cassettes, £8.99).

I am lethal at the wheel when listening to these tapes, forever pulling over to make notes about how to grow autumn crocus, or which are the best varieties of hybrid lilacs for weight of truss, or scent and colour. Listening to these tapes in the car is the best way to enjoy a gardening book.

Some Branch Against The Sky by Geoffrey Dutton (David & Charles, £16.99). If you know someone gardening in a