

"Over fifty years ago Rachel Carson wrote in *Silent Spring* that, our 'attitude toward plants is a singularly narrow one.' *The Green Thread* offers readers in the humanities and sciences a more broadly conceived, sophisticated, and interdisciplinary conversation about plants. More significantly, the book reinvigorates a human dialogue with plants that has been displaced by modern cultural attitudes toward the vegetal world."

—MARK C. LONG, Keene State College

The Green Thread: Dialogues with the Vegetal World is an interdisciplinary collection of essays in the emerging field of plant studies. This volume is the first of its kind to bring together a dynamic body of scholarship that shares a critique of long-standing human perceptions of plants as lacking autonomy, agency, consciousness, and intelligence.

The leading metaphor of this book—"the green thread," echoing poet Dylan Thomas's phrase "the green fuse"—carries multiple meanings. On a more apparent level, "the green thread" is what weaves together the diverse approaches of this collection: an interest in the vegetal that goes beyond single disciplines and specialist discourses, and one that not only encourages but also necessitates interdisciplinary and even interspecies dialogue. On another level, "the green thread" links creative and historical productions to the materiality of the vegetal—a reality reflecting our symbiosis with oxygen-producing beings. In short, *The Green Thread* refers to the conversations about plants that transcend strict disciplinary boundaries, as well as to the possibility of dialogue with plants.

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