



Crossword Puzzles

Volume 2

Gardening & Plants

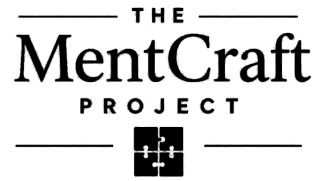


60 Themed Puzzles + 10 Bonus Puzzles

Large Print • Complete Answer Key
Includes a Complete Word Glossary

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Gardening & Plants

Crossword Puzzles

Volume 2

70 Puzzles Including 10 Bonus Puzzles

For David

My son, you have a wonderful mind.

Always remain curious and never assume you know everything.

How to Get the Most Out of This Book

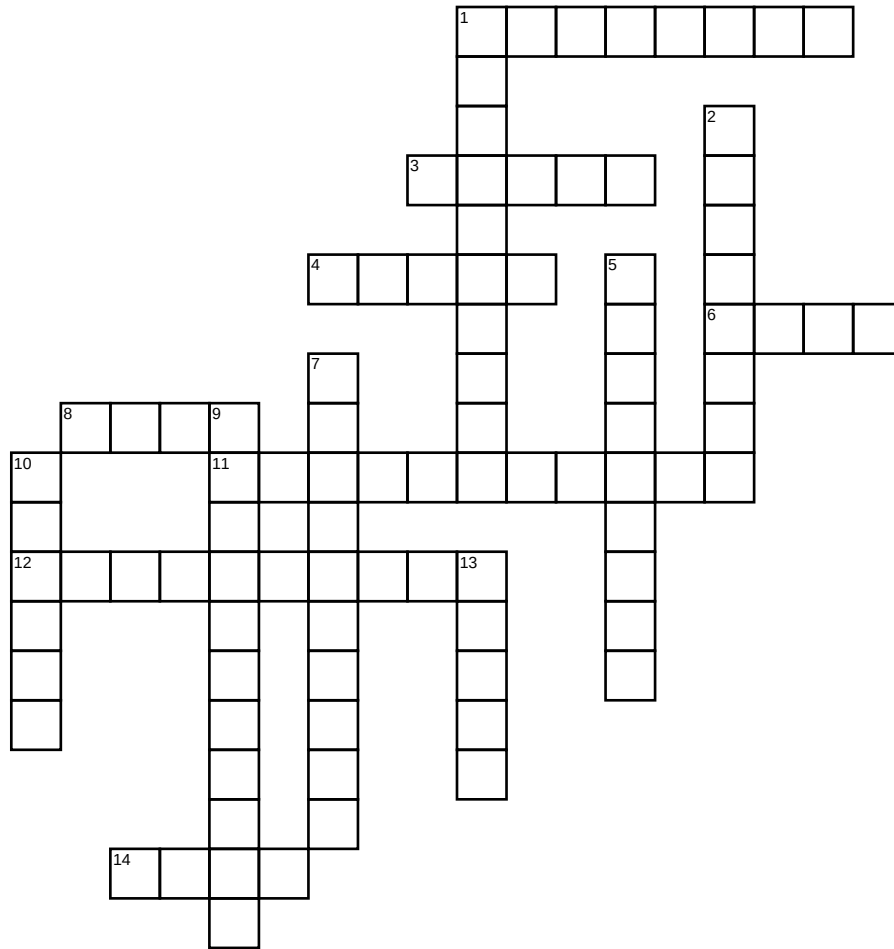
Every MentCraft collection is built on a simple belief: a mind that's regularly challenged stays sharper, more curious, and more capable. Crossword puzzles do this in a distinctive way — you're not simply recalling a word, you're reasoning your way to it sideways, through wordplay and the partial evidence of crossing letters.

Each puzzle's header shows its subtheme, its number, and a difficulty rating, so you can track your progress or choose where to start. All solutions are grouped together near the end of the book, in numerical order, ready whenever you need to check your work.

If you're the kind of solver who likes to dig a little deeper, this book includes a complete Glossary at the very end — every word, defined and alphabetized, so an unfamiliar term never has to stay a mystery. And at the bottom of every puzzle page, you'll find a My Notes space: room to jot down a new word you've learned, an alternate answer you considered, or anything worth remembering as you go.

Fill in each answer based on its clue. Answers cross over one another at shared letters, just like a standard crossword. Enjoy the journey!

Puzzle 1: Ferns, Mosses, Fungi & Lichens



ACROSS

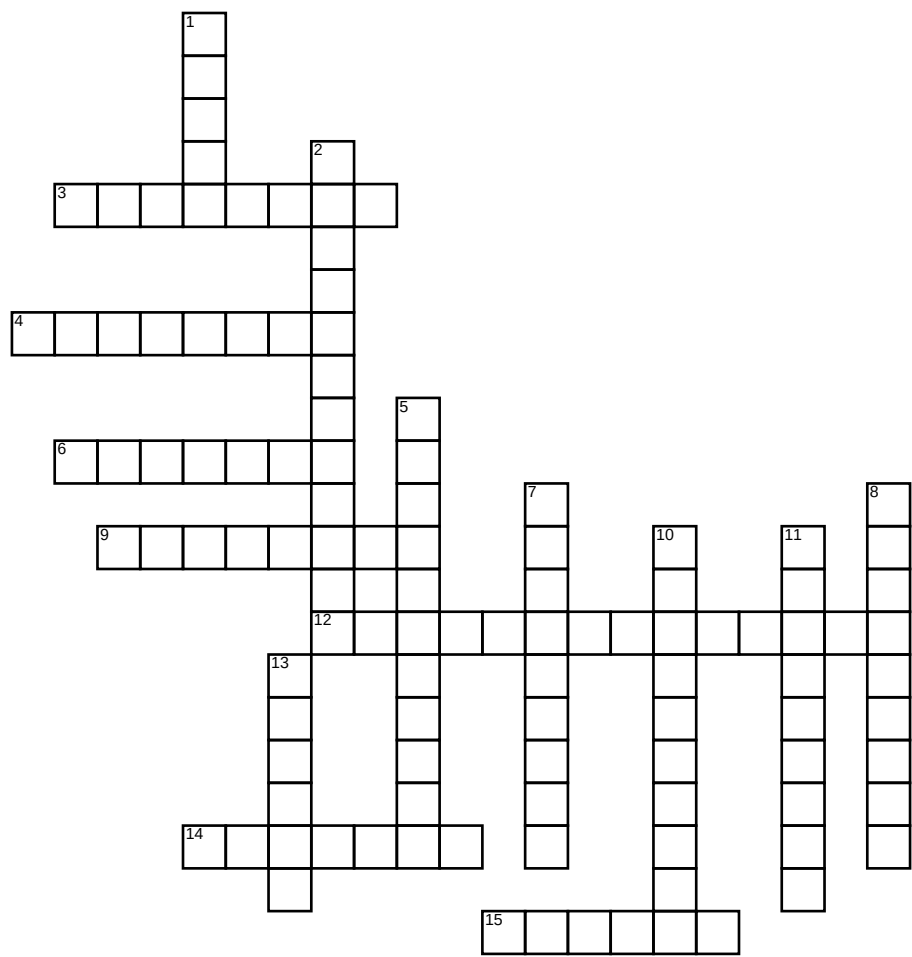
1. A fleshy fungal fruiting body with a cap and stalk
3. A cluster of sporangia on the underside of a fern frond
4. A tiny reproductive unit of certain plants and fungi
6. A thin tissue structure under the cap of a mushroom
8. A small, non-vascular green plant that grows in damp areas
11. Fern gametophyte stage, small heart-shaped structure
12. Simple non-vascular plants resembling liver lobes
14. Membrane covering the gills or cap of some mushrooms.

DOWN

1. Symbiotic association between fungus and plant roots
2. Peat moss, important for bog formation
5. A branched, shrubby growth form of lichen
7. Fungus part bearing sporangia
9. Bearing sporocarps, fruiting bodies producing spores
10. Mushroom with a cap and pores on the underside.
13. The stalk or stem of a mushroom

My Notes:

Puzzle 2: Ferns, Mosses, Fungi & Lichens



ACROSS

- 3. Fern with golden-green young fronds.
- 4. Fern with crescent-shaped sori.
- 6. Fungal network of thread-like structures underground
- 9. A growth form of lichen that adheres closely to its substrate
- 12. Structure supporting sporangia in certain fungi
- 14. Large fern with triangular, divided fronds.
- 15. A composite organism consisting of algae and fungi

DOWN

- 1. The leaf or leaf-like part of a fern
- 2. Plant reproducing without flowers or seeds, via spores
- 5. The haploid, gamete-producing stage of a plant life cycle
- 7. Non-vascular plant with horn-shaped sporophytes
- 8. A small non-vascular plant similar to moss
- 10. The diploid, spore-producing stage of a plant life cycle
- 11. Fruiting body of certain fungi producing spores
- 13. Individual thread-like structures forming fungal mycelium

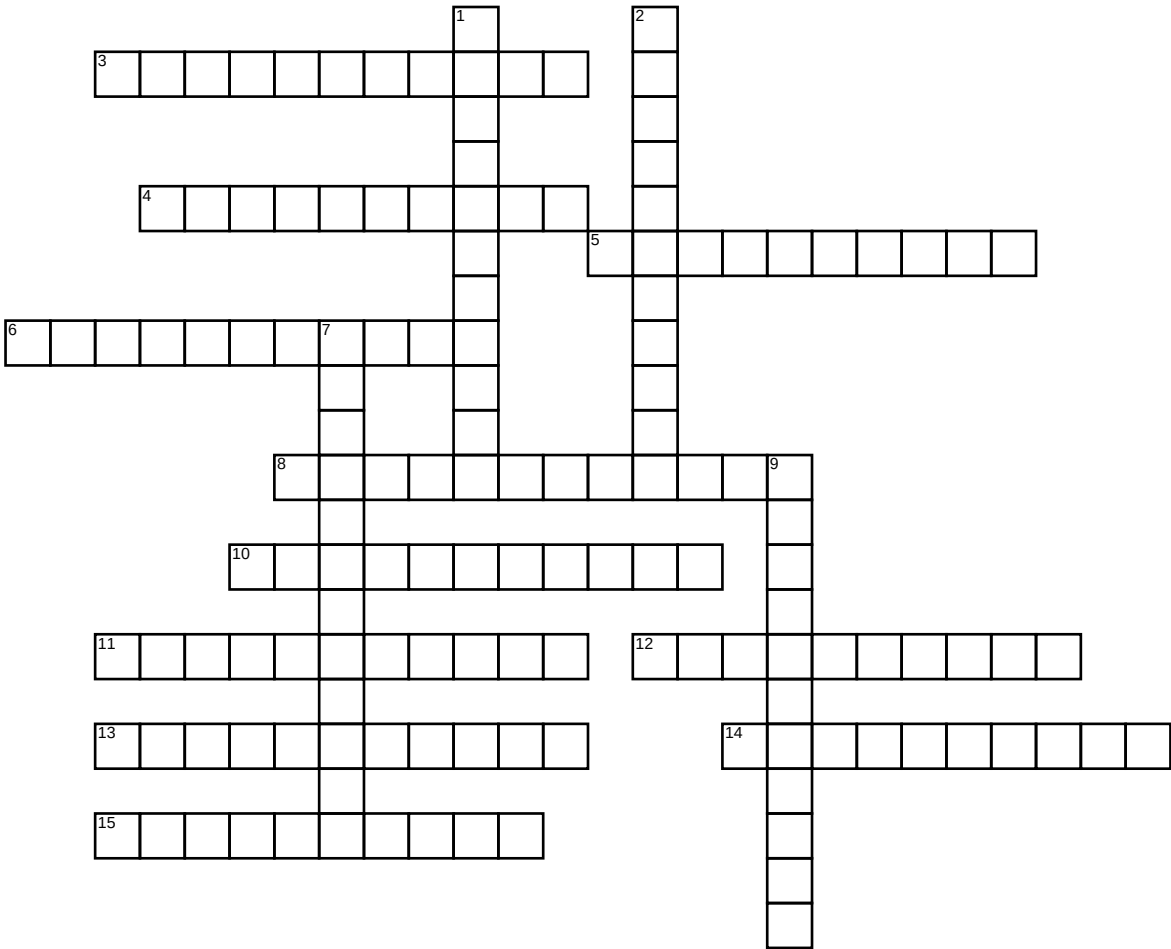
My Notes:

BONUS PUZZLES

Our gift to you for choosing this book!

A few extra, slightly trickier puzzles to enjoy.

Puzzle 61: BONUS



ACROSS

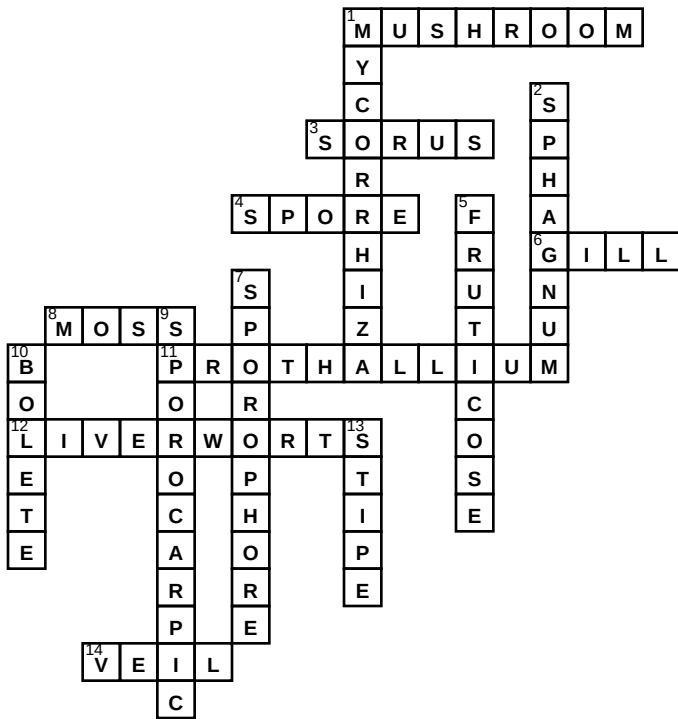
- 3. Aquatic plants with large leaves
- 4. Condition of having more than two sets of chromosomes
- 5. Earthenware material for pots and vases
- 6. Little caterpillar that eats cabbage
- 8. Having two different alleles for a trait
- 10. Green pigment in plants
- 11. Making new plants from existing ones
- 12. Adaptation to dry conditions
- 13. Decorative framework for climbing plants
- 14. Resembling a thallus, lacking true roots, stems, leaves
- 15. Aggressive, spreading lawn weed

DOWN

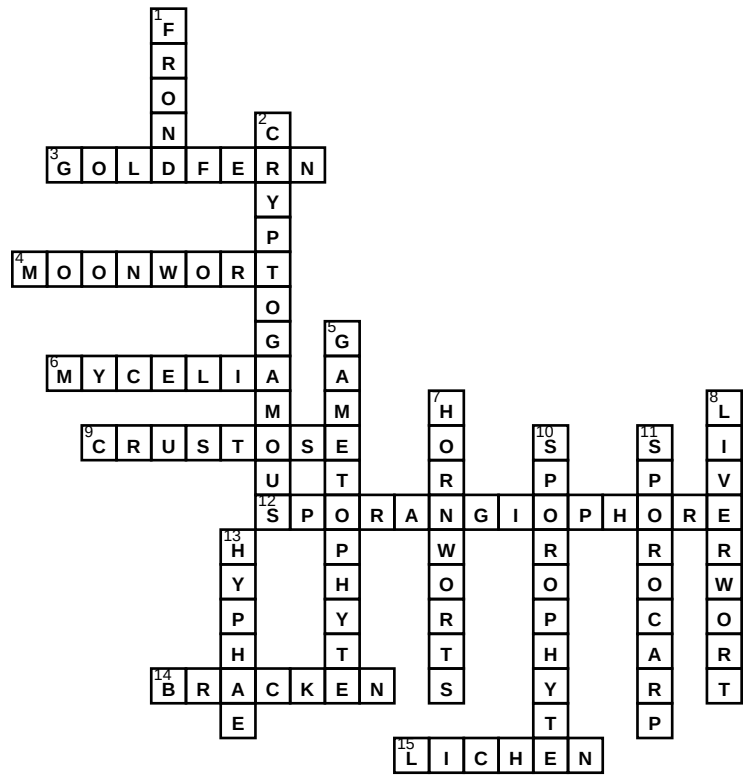
- 1. Tree with fragrant autumn foliage
- 2. Removing spent flowers to encourage new growth
- 7. Excess moisture in soil causing root issues
- 9. Structures bearing sporangia in fungi and some plants

My Notes:

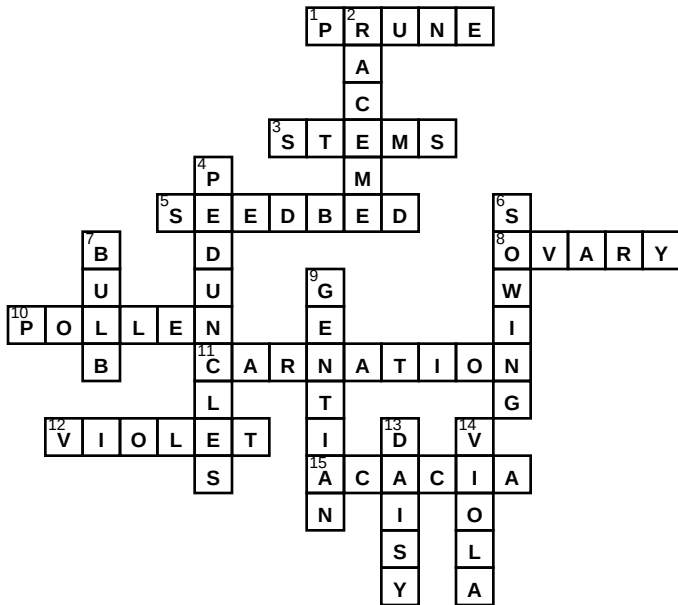
Solution #1



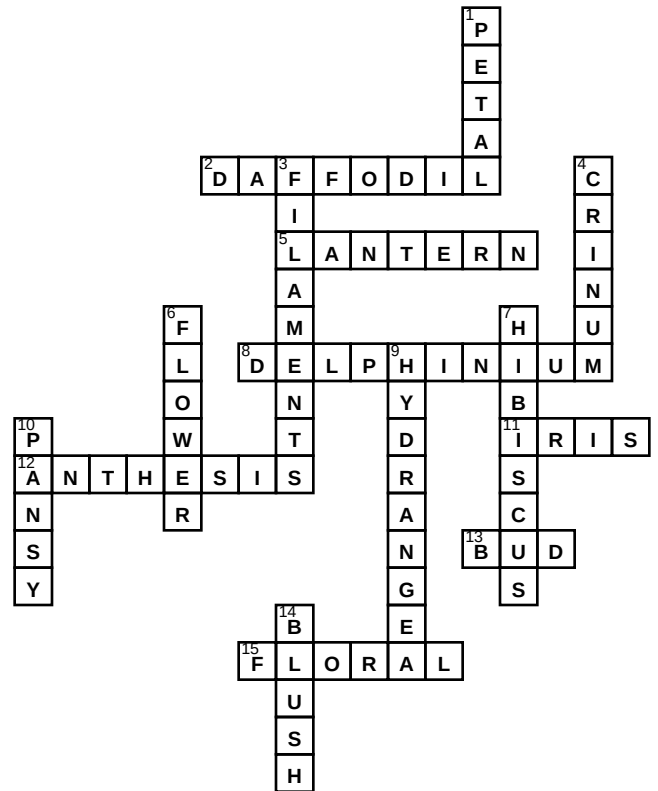
Solution #2



Solution #3



Solution #4



Glossary

ACACIA: A genus of flowering plants in the pea family, characterized by its thorn-like spines and fragrant, showy flowers.

ACIDIC: Describing soil with a pH below 7, indicating higher acidity.

AERATE: To make small holes in the soil, especially in order to improve its condition by allowing air, water, and nutrients to reach plant roots

AERATION: The process of providing air to a compost pile to support microbial activity, promote decomposition, and prevent anaerobic conditions that can produce unpleasant odors

AERATOR: A machine used to make small holes in the soil, especially in order to improve its condition by allowing air, water, and nutrients to reach plant roots

AGGRESSIVE: Describing weeds that spread quickly

ALBUMEN: Nutrient-rich layer surrounding a seed embryo

ALGAE: Simple photosynthetic organisms that grow in aquatic environments

ALKALI: A substance that has a pH higher than 7.0, used to balance acidic soils and improve nutrient availability.

ALKALINE: Describing soil with a pH above 7, indicating higher alkalinity which can affect plant growth.

ALPINE: Plants that thrive in high-altitude, seasonal conditions and have adaptations to survive cold winters and short growing seasons.

ALUM: Chemical compound used in soil to manage pH, supporting microbial activity and nutrient availability in compost.

AMENDMENT: A substance added to the soil to modify its chemical properties and improve fertility

ANEMONE: Any of various plants constituting the genus *Anemone*, having usually white, pink, or purple flowers.

ANGIOSPERM: Flowering plant that produces seeds within an ovary

ANNUAL: A plant that completes its life cycle in one growing season.

ANNULAR: Having a ring-like shape

ANTHESIS: The stage at which pollen is released from the anthers of a flower, often accompanied by changes in color or fragrance

ANTHOCYANIN: Pigment that gives blue and red colors to flowers and fruits

ANTHRACNOSE: Fungal disease causing dark spots on leaves and stems

APEX: Tip of a plant shoot

APHID: A small, soft-bodied insect that feeds on plant sap, often causing damage.

APHIDS: Small, soft-bodied insects of the superfamily Aphidoidea, often found in large numbers on various plants and considered serious garden pests because they feed by sucking sap from plant stems and leaves

APHIS: A genus of small, soft-bodied insects called aphids, which feed on plant sap and can spread disease.

APIARIST: A person responsible for the care of honeybees, particularly in an apiary

APOMIXIS: Asexual reproduction in plants

APPLE: A fruit-bearing tree in the genus *Malus*, native to Asia and known for its edible apples.

APPLES: The sweet, juicy fruits of the *Malus domestica* tree

APPLYING: The act of adding fertilizers, compost, or other organic materials to improve soil structure, fertility, and nutrient balance.

AQUATIC: Relating to or living in water, including plants and animals that thrive in aquatic environments such as ponds.

ARBOREOUS: Relating to or resembling trees

ARBORETA: A botanical garden specializing in the cultivation and display of trees for educational purposes and landscape design inspiration.

ARBORETUM: A botanical garden that is dedicated to the cultivation of trees, usually a landscaped outdoor area containing a variety of woody plants arranged systematically

ARBUTUS: A genus of small, evergreen trees or shrubs in the heath family (*Ericaceae*), native to the Mediterranean region and western North America. They are characterized by their leathery leaves and bell-shaped flowers, and some species produce edible berries.

ARCS: Arched structures in gardens, used to provide support for plants or shade over pathways.

ARUGULA: A salad green of the mustard family with a slightly bitter flavor.

ASH: Any of several trees of the genus *Fraxinus*, having compound leaves divided into several leaflets, and white or pink flowers followed by winged fruit.

ASTER: A flowering plant with daisy-like composite flowers often seen in gardens and fields.

AXIL: The angle between the upper side of a leaf or stem and the supporting stem, where flower buds can form.

AXILS: The joint between the leaf and stem where flowers often develop, crucial for attracting pollinators by offering nectar or other rewards.

AZALEAS: any of various ornamental shrubs of the genus *Rhododendron*, especially those that have clusters of small fragrant flowers and bloom in late spring or early summer

BAGGER: A piece of equipment attached to a lawnmower that collects and contains the cut grass clippings.

BAGGING: The process of collecting grass clippings and other debris after mowing, often using a lawn bag attached to the mower.

BALANCING: The practice of maintaining a proper mix of nitrogen-rich and carbon-rich materials in a compost pile.

BALUSTRADE: A decorative railing with spindles, often used to enclose terraces or walkways in gardens.

BANKED: A slope or raised area in a garden design, often used to create levels or define spaces

BARE: Exposed soil without vegetation that can affect cacti and succulents by increasing evaporation.

BARKS: The outer protective layer of a fruit tree.

BARROW: A heavy, two-wheeled vehicle used to transport soil, manure, or other materials

BASIL: An aromatic herb commonly used in Italian cuisine to add a pungent flavor to dishes

BATS: Mammals that use structures like bat houses in gardens for roosting and pest control.

BAY: An evergreen shrub or small tree with aromatic leaves commonly used in landscaping for its dense foliage and ability to tolerate shade.

BEAK: The hard, projecting upper and lower jaw in birds used for feeding, pecking or other actions.

The MentCraft Project starts from a simple idea: a mind that's exercised regularly stays sharper, more curious, and more capable — but not every mind sharpens the same way. Some people think best in words, others in numbers, others in shapes and spatial patterns, others in sequences of logical steps. That's why MentCraft builds puzzle collections across many different formats, each one training a different kind of mental muscle.

Crossword puzzles train the mind in a very particular way: you're not just recalling a word, you're reasoning your way to it sideways — through wordplay, association, and partial evidence from intersecting letters. Every solved clue reinforces vocabulary you already half-knew, while the crossing pattern quietly builds the discipline of holding several possibilities in mind until only one fits.

Explore the vibrant world of gardening and plants through this engaging crossword puzzle book. From the delicate intricacies of ferns to the diverse forms and textures of trees and shrubs, each clue is a gateway to new discoveries. Whether you're unraveling the mysteries of plant diseases or pruning and training your greenery, every term and concept will enrich your understanding of these captivating subjects. Solving puzzles here means diving deeper into the nuances of gardening—whether it's mastering seed propagation in spring or tending to succulents and cacti in your collection.

