

## Dirty Rush

Maverick Gardeners Carbon Footprints as Cultural-Ecological Metaphors Felder Rushing Anita Girvan

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be forewarned that this book honors people like the woman in my hometown who paints the numbers of her favorite nascar drivers on her elephant ears and a tokyo gardener with over a hundred bonsai plants so says renowned garden journalist felder rushing in his new book maverick gardeners dr dirt and other determined independent gardeners in this book felder delves deeply into the psychology of what motivates and sustains the keepers of the garden flame for thousands of years a loosely connected web of unique nontraditional gardeners has bonded people across race culture language and other social conventions through sharing unique plants and stories found in nearly every neighborhood worldwide these determined independent gardeners digers are typically nonjoiners who garden simply and exuberantly eschewing customary horticultural standards in their amateur pursuits of personal bliss included in maverick gardeners are classic passalong plant lists a dollop of how to numerous color photographs and thought provoking essays on quintessential tools sharing with others getting away with wildflowers in suburbia and organizing a plant swap the

centerpiece of this unique gardening journey is the no holds barred story of a ten year cross cultural collaboration between the horticulturist author and a flamboyant rebellious gardener who called himself dirt through swapping plants and garden lore and rubbing shoulders with fellow diggers they unraveled their shared humanity from the practical to the inspiring maverick gardeners is the perfect book for those nonconformist souls who see no sense in trying to fit in and follow the footpaths of others

through an examination of carbon footprint metaphors this books demonstrates the ways in which climate change and other ecological issues are culturally and materially constituted through metaphor the carbon footprint metaphor has achieved a ubiquitous presence in anglo north american public contexts since the turn of the millennium yet this metaphor remains under examined as a crucial mediator of political responses to the urgent crisis of climate change existing books and articles on the carbon footprint typically treat this metaphor as a quantifying metric with little attention to the shifting mediations and practices of the carbon footprint as a metaphor this gap echoes a wider gap in understanding metaphors as key figures in mediating more than human relations at a time when such relations profoundly matter as a timely intervention this book addresses this gap by using insights from environmental humanities and political ecology to discuss carbon footprint metaphors in popular and public texts this book will be of great interest to researchers and students of environmental humanities political ecology environmental communication and metaphor studies

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