



I got myself a couple of new books on Monday. They're both books I'd been thinking about for a while, perusing them whenever I passed through the bookstore and saw them on the shelf. Halfway through Monday afternoon I remembered I had a full stamp card (worth a reasonable discount at our bookstore) and decided it would be a good time to get them.

The first one is a cookbook - *The French Country Table* - and if I only ever make the sweets in it it will be worth it. Chances are I'll make several of the savouries too though - my mouth was watering while I read through recipes. One of the sweets I'm most excited about is the Rhubarb Clafoutis. I make cherry clafoutis every summer and it is one of our favourite desserts - simple, fruity, not too sweet - but last fall Rob's mum gave me a big chunk of her rhubarb plant and if it takes off we'll be able to eat rhubarb from our own garden this summer.

Book number two is *Front Yard Gardens*. Our house is set back a long way from the street and the previous owners put in a long strip of grass in the space between. It's almost three times as long as it is wide (or at least looks that way from the street). We really want to have a nice front yard but I had no idea where to start let alone aim for. This book is great. It's written by someone who lives in Canada and has examples of gardens from all over including Edmonton which is close enough to our climate (i.e. it gets as cold just not for as long) that suggestions for plants can actually be considered useful.

Most of the book is not suggestions for specific plants though, it's more about planning types of plants (trees, shrubs, perennials etc.) and how to group things together to go with your house and neighbourhood and stuff like that. There are even examples of creating gardens that are interesting when covered with snow! I'm very excited to see this year's snow finally disappearing so we can start playing around with ideas and take a good look at what we've got to work with.

# Two New Books

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