



Learning about the Garden with Sleeping Beauty



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Learning about the Garden



with
Sleeping Beauty

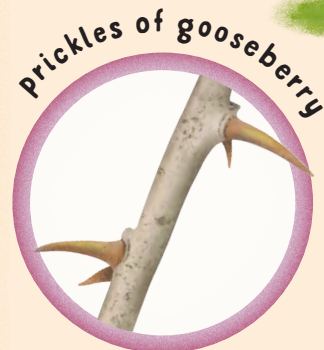


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But there are plants which you'd never find in the Princess' garden, even if you travelled the length and breadth of it, not leaving a single inch out. Remember the curse of the evil witch who foretold a great misfortune, saying that the Princess would hurt her gentle finger on a prickly on the day of her seventeenth birthday? Do you know the answer now? That's right! There were no plants or flowers or any weeds which would be armed with a single tiny prickly or thorn.



Goodies with prickles



Gooseberry

Would you like a gooseberry? You must fight your way through the bush's prickles, first. The pilous or bare berries, also known as goosegogs, will reward you with their sweet-and-sour flesh.



Raspberry

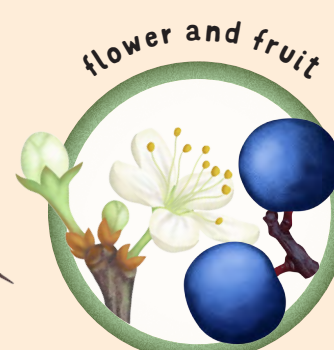
Who'd think that the almost two-meter raspberry bush will first prick you before giving up its delicious fruits? But it will. Red raspberries taste well both raw, and in the form of juice, marmalade, or jelly.

Goodies with thorns



Prickly pear

If the Princess lived in America, she still wouldn't have escaped her destiny. That's because in America you can find a so-called prickly pear, a cactus whose body and fruits are covered with thorns. But once you "disarm" the fruits, you can enjoy their delicious taste and huge vitamin C content.



Spines

A sloe's thorns are called spines. They're not actually thorns but small twigs which've transformed. In the fall when sloes are covered with gentle white flowers, they may seem pretty innocent, just like in the autumn when they lure you in with their purple fruits.

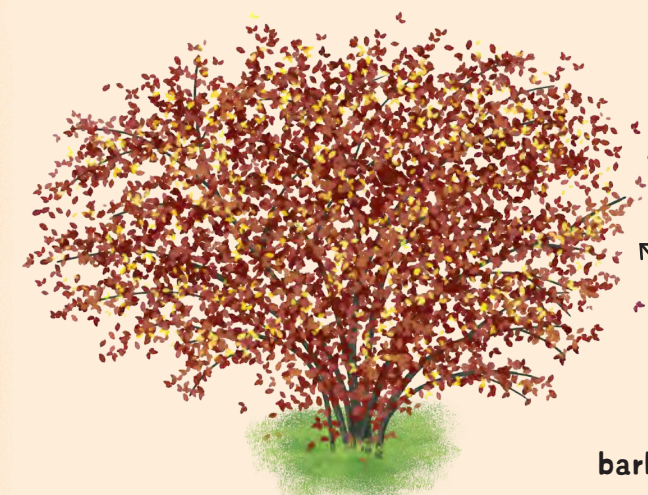
Beauty with thorns

Thunberg's barberry

Not a living soul can enter. How come? Because the hedge, made from thorny barberries, can stop all unwelcome visitors. But by all means—feast your eyes on it! The colourful leaves, yellow blossoms, and tiny, bright red berries indeed are impressive.



barberry
in summer



barberry
in autumn

THORNS & PRICKELS

We all know that the Princess hurt her finger on a prickle and fell asleep. But the Sleeping Beauty wasn't the only one who was endangered by prickly plants, large and small; armed greenery can give a hard time to us, common folk, as well. Unlike the Beauty, though, we can just put a plaster on our wounds.

blooming rose



prickles of rose



Rose

The Princess most likely hurt herself on a rose prickle—the queen of flowers whose beauty and diverse colours shame plants from far and wide. Can you guess what its fruit is called? Rosehip, of course. Did you know that every single kind of rosehip is edible?

ROSE GARDEN



flower teasel



prickles of teasel



Fuller's teasel

A biennial, the fuller's teasel even looks sharp. In the first year of its life, a prickly rosette of leaves grows out of the ground; in the second year, a leafed stalk is added. Our ancestors used to make picking tools out of it, among other things.

rose is creeping
up on supports

Thorns, or prickles?

So what did the Princess hurt herself on? A thorn, or a prickle? Woody, pointed thorns are formed when a stem, leaf, or root of a plant is transformed; unlike prickles which grow from the plant's epidermis, similarly to the hair growing out of your head. Compared to thorns, prickles can be easily broken off.

Protection of plants

So that the otherwise helpless plants could protect themselves, of course! Just think about it—would you enjoy gnawing on a prickly flower? Among other things, prickly protrusions help plants keep the water contained in their bodies, and prevent it from excessively evaporating. Plants use thorns to creep up on supports and reach the sun.

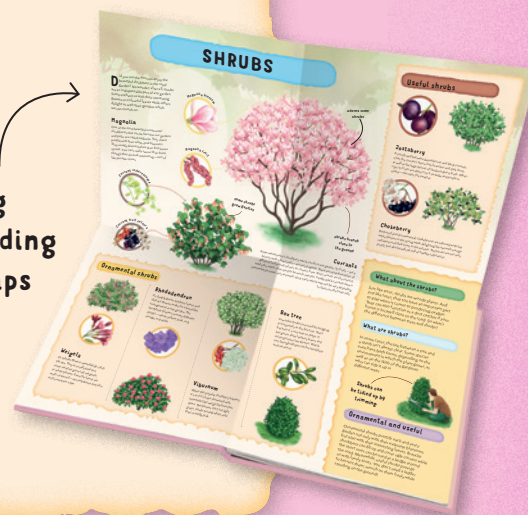


Learning about the Garden with Sleeping Beauty

Text by Tereza Němcová & Štěpánka Sekaninová
Illustrations by Magda Andresová & Linh Dao

Far far away after crossing nine mountains and nine rivers lived a charming princess Sleeping Beauty and her great passion was gardening and great care of all plants that surrounded her palace. However, she was cursed and one day the princess pricked her finger on a thorn of a rose and fell asleep and the entire garden began to be overgrown with brier roses, hawthorn and weeds. And how did it turn out for her? You can read not only about this story but you will get much more interesting information about garden and everything connected with it in this richly illustrated book Learning about the Garden with Sleeping Beauty which is a unique combination of a fairy tale and an encyclopedia.

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WARNING:
Choking hazard.
Not suitable for children
under 36 months.

CE

