

*Shakespeare's Nature* offers the first sustained account of the impact of the language and practice of husbandry on Shakespeare's work. It shows how the early modern language of cultivation changed attitudes to the natural world and redefined the relationships between the human and its habitat. Exploring Shakespeare's terms of intervention and management, from the economic to the emotional, this book reveals the extent to which cultivation redefined early modern definitions of value. Drawing on economic, agrarian, humanist, Christian, and literary analysis, it shows how husbandry created a new understanding of the natural world. Understanding how this world could be exploited, managed, and controlled would reshape Elizabethan and Jacobean attitudes to human potential as well as human worth. Ranging from close readings of the Sonnets to *The Tempest*, this book shows how cultivation forms and develops social and economic value systems, and how the early modern imagination was dependent on metaphors of investment, nurture, and growth. *Shakespeare's Nature* explains how land cultivation responds to and reinforces social welfare, and reveals how the dominant industry of Shakespeare's time shaped new languages of social relations. By tracing this language of intervention and creation in Shakespeare's work, this book reveals the changing landscape of early modern thought and its impact on social, political, and personal values.