

PAMELA HOBART CARTER

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Green Time

It is early, before ripe September,  
before heating and drying in the second degree.

Hot bodies abound—two dry walnuts,  
as many good figs, twenty juniper berries.

Day is green. A piece of the green  
wonderfully helps the rising mother.

The young green cools the place every morning.  
Kind green grows every where by the way sides.

Green dissolves the hurt. Almost all people eat  
the green, many to be cured.

It is good the green heals, perfectly heals.  
Good, the hardness ruptures. It is very good.

## ABOUT THE POEM

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“Green Time” was created from the *Complete Herbal* by Nicholas Culpeper (1653). About the poem and the process of composing it, Pamela Hobart Carter writes:

I pulled each word, unchanged and in the same sequence as it appears, from the Walnut Tree through Willow Tree sections of Culpeper’s *Complete Herbal*. All punctuation, line breaks, and stanza choices are mine. I often figure out a narrative as I erase, and titles last of all. For “Green Time” I chose to highlight the hue after coming upon and selecting its first two appearances, and to look for other instances of long E and hard G sounds.

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