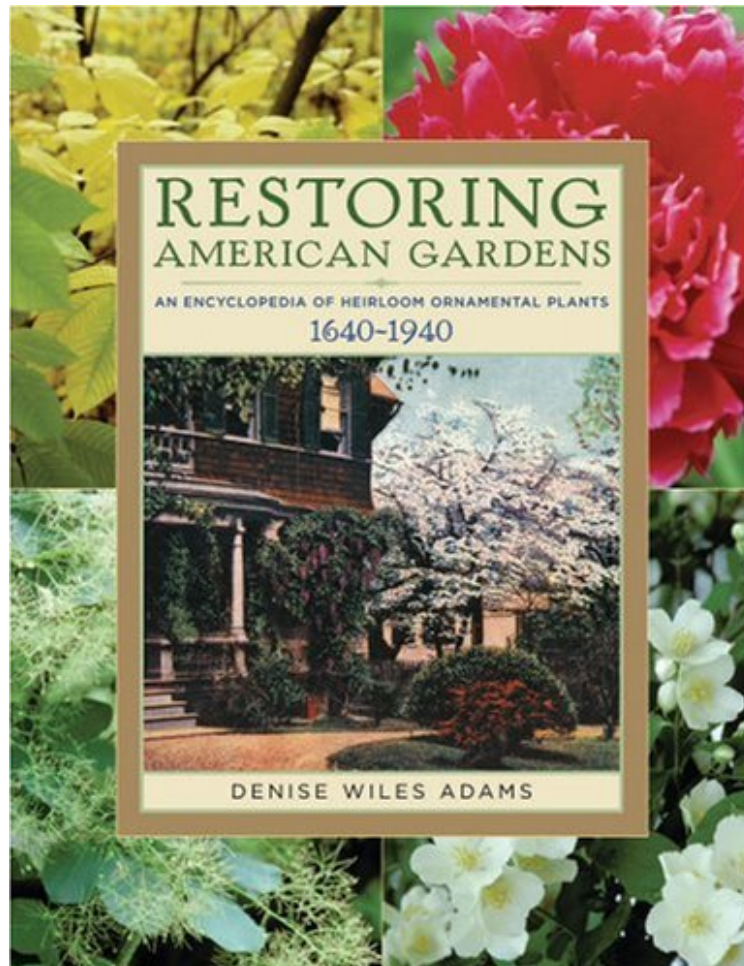


Restoring American Gardens: An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants, 1640-1940

Denise Wiles Adams

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Denise Wiles Adams : Restoring American Gardens: An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants, 1640-1940 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Restoring American Gardens: An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants, 1640-1940:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Restored my interest By S. Hudak I had a heritage garden to restore and needed some information on the types of plants grown around the 1800's. This book was the perfect answer to all my questions. The format is perfect for getting the pertinent data without having to read through pages of trivia. Although at the end of each plant story there is a remark section that does give you something historically interesting. Among other things you are given the introduction date, zone, description, earliest American citation, design notes, and more. There are some modern pictures of the plants but they are not really necessary. I liked seeing the old drawings and photos. The book is divided by plant groupings: vines, annuals, tropicals, etc, which made it easy for me to find a

plant for the area I was working on. The one area of the book that didn't work for me was the Historic Commercial Plant Sources. The information may have been pertinent but it was laid out in such a way that I spent more time trying to figure out the "code" than I did in gaining any knowledge. That aside, this is a wonderful book that I will be using a lot as I do more historic garden designs. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Landscapers Bible for Historic Plants By Ryan D. Hayward I bought this book forever ago and I don't know why I am not reviewing this sooner. This book is my go-to restoration guide for historic landscapes. In the preservation field, I am often asked what did the gardens look like and how can we turn our blah yard into something spectacular. This book offers such a solution. I have marked off so many different tabs of plants and their historic uses that I may have to order a newer printing of this book! It's illustrated and balanced with a useful amount of text. I highly recommend this book if you're looking to restore or create a historic looking landscape. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Invaluable Reference By L. Beutler Any garden designer or public garden wrestling with restoring historic gardens and landscapes should have a copy of this close to hand. The region-by-region Appendix of plants brought to areas of the USA and their timing was invaluable in making plant selections for the Heirloom Garden at the Rogerson Clematis Garden outside Lake Oswego OR. The research was thorough and results fascinating.

Today's gardeners have more plants and design ideas to choose from than ever before. But is there something missing in their gardens if they ignore their ties to the past? Denise Wiles Adams has written a remarkable book of history and horticulture that documents the changing plant palette of American gardens. From the colonial era to the pre-World War II period, no region of the country is neglected and no major plant group unrepresented. From a database of more than 25,000 plants and hundreds of antique nursery catalogs, she has distilled a unique survey of American ornamental gardens. Nobody concerned with historic homes and properties can afford to be without it. An important resource that will be consulted for generations, *Restoring American Gardens* is a vital link between gardeners and their predecessors throughout history.

From Publishers Weekly Horticulturalist and ornamental plant historian Adams hopes "that everyone will choose to garden with heirloom plants." This extensive exploration of the evolution of American gardens will inspire many readers to do just that. Home gardeners will discover untried plants and rediscover familiar ones from a rich historical perspective, while professional and amateur designers alike will find a wealth of practical information on how to approach the historic landscape, document key features, develop a list of appropriate plants and pursue investigations. Furthermore, the book has considerable appeal for non-gardeners, as Adams offers many insights into the development of American domestic culture. Early chapters briskly review the art and science of historic gardens. From there, Adams's enthusiasm is infectious, as she explains techniques for interpreting old garden sites, describes design styles for typical building types and discusses traditions in different geographic regions. The bulk of the volume—the encyclopedia itself—differs from usual plant listings by including incisive design notes and remarks. Whenever possible, Adams quotes original sources, creating a brief historical record for each plant. Antique and contemporary photographs and illustrations support the text and offer glimpses of American gardens of the past. Ample, detailed appendices and a comprehensive bibliography add greater value to what's destined to become an indispensable reference for anyone interested in heirloom ornamentals and their history. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist As the trend to restore or rehabilitate one's garden increases among individuals who possess property endowed with a historic provenance, so, too, does the need for further research into the gardenscapes of earlier eras. Thus, Adams' effort is most timely, and the abundant material on ornamental plants she presents covers more than 1,000 that are considered to be cultural heirlooms—species that most definitely merit conservation. Adams provides information to help determine garden elements that once existed on a given plot of land, and guidance on how to decide on period features suited to the architecture of a given setting. She also scrutinizes traditions relating to geographic regions from coast to coast, and presents extensive appendixes that should gratify the most detail-oriented reader. The home gardener, professional landscape designer, bed-and-breakfast proprietor, and all those who have taken to heart the task of re-creating plantings that are in keeping with a mode of yesteryear will love delving into this satisfying, well-organized, and beautifully produced resource. Alice Joyce Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Destined to become an indispensable reference for anyone interested in heirloom ornamentals and their history." -- Publisher's Weekly, January 19, 2004