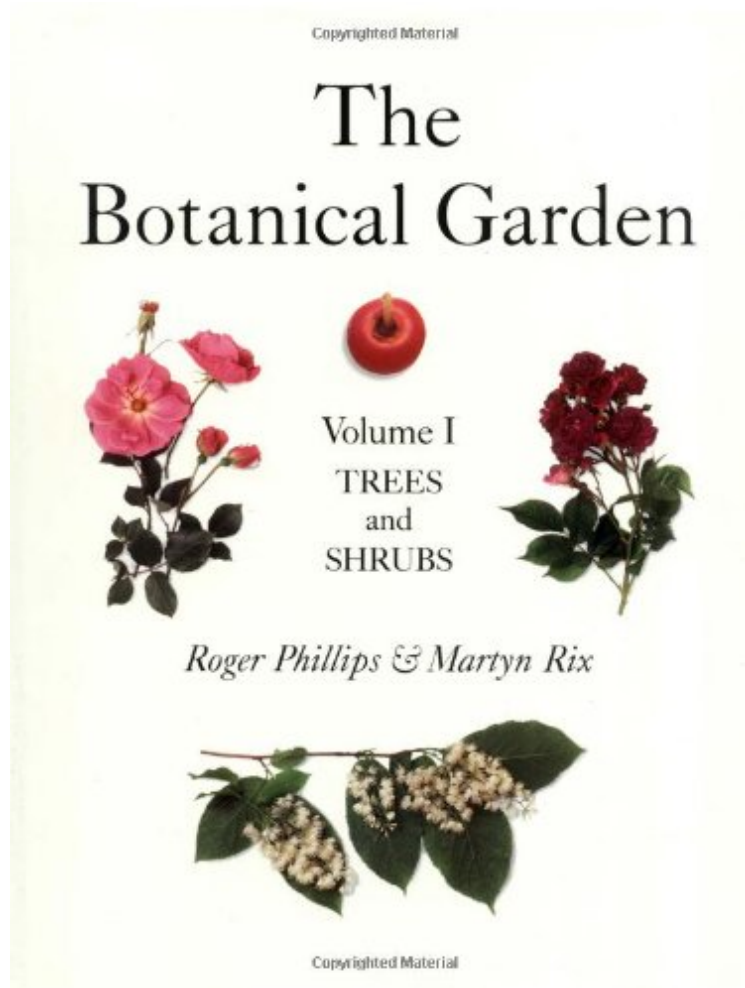


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The Botanical Garden, Vol. 1: Trees and Shrubs

Roger Phillips, Martyn Rix

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Volume II. For any serious or professional gardener, the layout of plants by family gives you a much better understanding of nature and makes identifying plants really easy. The photos are lovely, and the clearest you will find in any book for id-ing details.

Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix are pioneers in the use of photography in plant illustration. The Botanical Garden I and II, are exciting and thoroughly modern renditions of illustrated botany books. Ten years in the making, this set combines the finest in photography with up-to-date, expert commentary to bridge the gap between gardener-friendly books and scientific texts. In the tradition of the great botanical illustrations, each featured plant has been carefully photographed -- as a whole and in its parts -- against a white background to reveal the plant's physical characteristics in exacting detail. Plants from more than 1,200 distinct groups are described -- from oaks to violets and water lilies to grasses -- and are presented in evolutionary order, from the most primitive to the most advanced. Each plant listing includes: Name: genus, species and common names, date of discovery, and range. Description: detailed and concise in the scientific style. Key Recognition Features. Ecology and Geography. Comment: cultivation needs plus notes about unusual hybrids or developments in the genus. As a pair, the two volumes are an all-inclusive source of information and photographs of more than 2,000 genera of temperate plants. Thorough introductory text encompasses numerous themes in botany, from the history of plant development to current DNA studies that are revolutionizing plant classification. Each volume includes a detailed index and bibliography. The Botanical Garden I and II are exciting additions to a gardening bookshelf. They are visually rich and highly accurate references that will remain interesting, useful and current for many years. Offering a discerning insight into the relationship between garden plants and their natural environments and accuracy that is unequalled outside scientific circles, this duo are truly the modern heirs to a long history of botanical references. There are simply no other works of this kind available today. About Volume I, Trees and Shrubs Featuring 510 genera of temperate woody garden plants with full details of how they are related, their origins and uses, Volume I covers trees, shrubs and climbers. From plants dating to prehistory -- tree ferns, ginkgoes and some conifers - to those more recently evolved, this volume includes early- flowering plants (magnolia and its family), catkin-bearing trees, fruit and nut trees, maples, the cordyline, palm and bamboo species, and many more advanced trees and shrubs.

From Library Journal Photographer Phillips and botanist, plant collector, and gardener Rix have already collaborated on 23 horticultural books. Their latest project covers more than 1000 genera of plants in the world's temperate regions. Each volume is arranged in evolutionary order by family, from the most primitive to the most advanced. Each genus entry includes a detailed botanical description of the genus, key recognition features, evolution and plant relationships, ecology and geography, and facts about the genus ranging from garden uses to medicinal uses. Most compelling are the spectacular, close-up color photographs that exquisitely detail every plant part. Unfortunately, the lack of detailed cultural information, USDA hardiness zones, and specific species information makes this work less useful for gardeners than other horticultural works. The price tag will keep this set out of some public libraries, which would be better served by Steven M. Still's Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants and Michael A. Dirr's Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. For a work with extensive color photographs, public libraries should instead consider Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs. This set is recommended for botanic and academic libraries. Sue O'Brien, Downers Grove P.L., IL Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The strict botanical viewpoint of Phillips and Rix offers scholarly gardeners an alternative to popular horticulture guides. In two classy volumes illustrated with detailed photos of leaves and bracts, blossoms, rhizomes, and root structures, the text expresses the value of plants to ecology, farming, and the individual orchard, landscape, flower bed, and window box. Arranged into groups in evolutionary order, the plants appear on individual pages or multipage spreads alongside scientific name, concise description, locale, and designation of hybrids and cultivation methods. The commentary is reduced to the blunt shorthand of the scientist, but the 4,000 pictures are pure art. Rounding out each volume are a succinct two-page glossary of such terms as loess, raceme, and umbel and a brief bibliography organized by continent. Examples of elegantly arranged illustrations are found under Albizia, Mahonia, and Yucca in volume 1 and under Acanthus, Dryopteris, and Molucella in volume 2. The accompanying plant data are, as the authors state, definitive and full of exacting details (e.g., the names and dates of botanists who located and classified individual flowers, ferns, herbs, bamboos, and evergreens). What is lacking in each entry and particularly in the index is the human touch. The authors ignore common names for many plants (the only way to find lilac is to know that its scientific name is Syringa) and avoid reference to plant uses in cooking, aromatherapy, and healing, thus confining the value of the set to college and university libraries. Whereas the botanist and grower will be overjoyed to find so brilliant a display of entries and plant photos, the high-school student, librarian, greenhouse manager, and ordinary gardener is more likely to experience frustration. Recommended for large botany collections. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Sheds new light, thanks to DNA studies, on the unwieldy and constantly changing world of plant classification ... These books are pure pleasure, so you can absorb as much or as little of the science as you please. (Anne Raver New York Times 2002-09-29) Botanical photography [taken] to a new level ... There are many pages you will be tempted to frame. (Carol Stocker

Boston Globe 2002-12-19)Spectacular... sumptuous color photographs of flowers, leaves, fruits, and seeds... accompanied by Rix's succinct text. (Allyson M. Hatward Journal of the New England Garden History Society)Spectacular hybrid of gardening and science ... Two green thumbs up on these books. (Cleveland Plain Dealer 2002-08-29)Never have more beautiful plant identification books been produced. (gardenclub.org/book_reviews 2002-09-08)I expect to turn to these volumes often when I want background information, as well as beautiful photos, of nearly any plant I might ever wonder about. (Valerie Easton Seattle Times 2002-09-08)Excellent colored studio illustrations of about 1,000 genera ... These volumes will interest horticulturists and botanists alike. All levels. (G.P. DeWolf Jr. Choice)Most compelling are the spectacular, close-up color photographs that exquisitely detail every plant part. (Sue O'Brien Library Journal 2002-10-15)What sets them apart, however, are the photographs -- crisp, colorful and close up, so you clearly can see the tiny details that can be so important for plant identification. (Knight Ridder News Service 2002-08-20)It is like having the Chelsea Order Garden in your bookshelf, and for purposes of identification, and the study of similarities and differences in closely related plants, it is invaluable. (Dick Raub The Botanical Artist)Rix and Phillips intend their book for gardeners, not just botanists, however. This is evident in Phillips's open design and his splendid full-color detail photographs make these books a true feast for the eyes. (Lori Kranz American Reference Books Annual, Volume 35)These are not trivial coffee-table books. (Stuart Robertson Montreal Gazette 2002-12-07)Destined to become standard reference work ... a classy work with a timeless focus. (Steve Whysall Southam News 2002-10-11)A spectacular hybrid of gardening book and scientific text. (David Hobson Kitchener-Waterloo Record 2002-11-16)These two volumes are an all-inclusive source of information for the temperate zone. (Ken Smith London Free Press 2002-11-30)Unique in the gardening library. (Jodi Delong Halifax Herald 2002-12-01)Never have more beautiful plant identification books been produced. (Joanne S. Carpender National Gardener)Lucid, concise prose, providing links, cross-references, valuable comments and a useful glossary. (Aldona Satterthwaite Canadian Gardening)The plants look as if they are living specimens lying on the page ... the photographs are amazing. (Floral and Nursery Times 2003-05-14)Combines impeccable photography with expert commentary ... there are simply no other books of this caliber available today. (James A. Baggett Backyard Solutions)Botanists, students and gardeners will delight in these two stunningly illustrated, encyclopedic tomes ... Lavish compendia contain scientific facts and lore ... [photographs] show remarkable detail and are carefully arranged so that seed, fruit and important identifying parts can be seen up close. They display the specimens at various stages of development, from blossom to fall foliage, to stunning effect. (Publishers Weekly 2002-07-29)A green thumb's essentials, with exquisite photographs and extensive descriptions. (Elle Decor)A striking visual presentation of the science of plants. (Beth Botts Chicago Tribune 2002-11-24)Impressive... fascinating and fun to browse or to search for specific plant information... Enjoy! (Barney Lipscomb Botanical Research Institute of Texas)[Recommended for plant identification:] A monumental work containing exquisite plant images. (Steve Whysall CanWest News Service 2005-09-16)