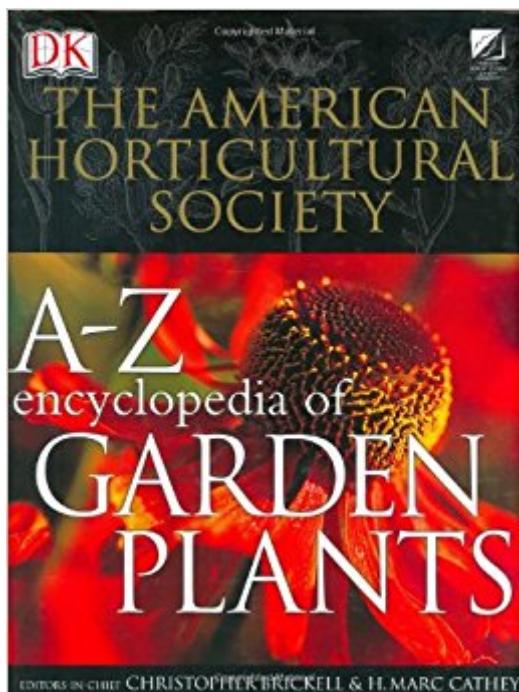


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# American Horticultural Society A To Z Encyclopedia Of Garden Plants (The American Horticultural Society)



## Synopsis

The most comprehensive, detailed, and lavishly illustrated guide to garden plants ever published, first published in 1997, has now been completely revised to include nearly 250 new plants and photos. The AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants is an essential reference for all gardeners, from novices to experts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Collecting contributions from 100 distinguished horticulturists, the handsome and lavishly illustrated American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants is a truly definitive gardening reference. With its 1,092 tiny-print pages, this may not be the book to tuck into your pocket as you weed and mulch, but what this encyclopedia lacks in portability, it certainly makes up for in scope. Hardy and tender plants, heirloom varieties and the latest hybrids--they're all accounted for here, with growing tips and background information about native habitats and ornamental features. You'll also find a fascinating section about botany, as well as information about basic gardening techniques such as mulching, staking, pruning, propagating, and protecting plants for winter. But the encyclopedia's main attraction is the individual plant entries--more than 15,000 of them, embellished with 6,000 full-color photographs and illustrations. From the visual glossary of leaves to the map of growing regions, The American Horticultural Society A-Z of Garden Plants provides an unsurpassed wealth of botanical information, making it the yardstick by which all other gardening references must

be measured. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

If they can afford it, libraries should have both editions of this invaluable one-volume reference. For gardeners seeking the right plant for the right place but with no knowledge of the specific name, the 1989 title arranges its catalog of 8000 plants not alphabetically by name but by season and color. It starts with color photos and descriptions of large trees, separating them by seasonal interest and by color within each season. It does the same for smaller trees, then for shrubs, climbers, perennials, annuals, rock plants, bulbs, and succulents. Expanding its coverage to over 15,000 plants, the 1997 encyclopedia is organized alphabetically, making it an ideal reference for patrons who want to know what a particular plant looks like, how it grows, and its hardiness zones. Its descriptions of popular plant species, like *Narcissus*, *Primula*, and *Rhododendron*, are a real strength. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

I have owned a copy of this book for many years. It has been my gardening bible. This copy was purchased as a gift for a gardening enthusiast. It is just full of all kinds of information and LOTS of photos. It is like a gardening how-to book and encyclopedia combined. The inside covers have visual glossaries for leaves, flowers and growth habits, keys to symbols used in the entries and zone map and hardiness explanation. This information is useful when deciphering the individual entries in the body of the book and explained in the first 10 pages. The next 20 pages have lots of general information on botony (the plant kingdom, the life of a plant, leaves and flowers) and information on cultivation(hardiness, gardening in different regions, the garden environment, outdoor cultivation, care under glass, pruning, pruning groups, propagaton, plant problems, organic issues and native plants. There are lots of photos and drawings to illustrate the descriptions. The next 20 pages have descriptions and the care of plants by the following groups: trees, shrubs, climbers, perennials, rock plants, annuals and biennials, bulbous plants, orchids, bromeliads, cacti and other succulents, palms and cycads, ferns, aquatic plants, grasses and bamboos. Each group is documented in a 2 page spread describing the plant group, its uses and features and cultivation. This section contains numerous photos of plant groupings and design suggestions. The remaining 1000 or so pages-did I mention this book is sort of heavy?-has the plants listed by Genus, Family and then individual plants with LOTS of photos. Do not let the scientific names put you off. If you don't know the scientific name of what you seek. The index in the back has common names followed by suggestions for a scientific name. The entries have all the information you would expect specific to the family and genus followed by individual plant entries and alternate (common) names,

growth habit and cultivation information specific to that plant and many photos of the varieties of that family of plants. As an example, the clematis listing covers 5 1/2 pages and has 54 photos of different clematis flowers labeled, the magnolia listing is on 3 1/2 pages and has 35 photos and the rosa (rose) has 25 pages and even more photos to identify the flowers. I have referred to this book when gardening both for ideas and instruction, when looking something up for children's homework, and just for design ideas or to look at the pictures of colorful flowers during the snowy months of winter. This is the best general reference for gardening. With its size, it can double as a place to press those pretty blossoms you've grown.

My son is a graduate of Texas A&M. Gig em Aggies!! I recently signed up for a Master Gardener course given by the A&M extension office in Belton, TX. My son, when hearing this, said, "Dad, you'll probably learn more than you ever really wanted to know about gardening." Given that the Aggies are serious about their science courses, and ESPECIALLY about the agricultural side, I've found him to be more than right. But!! But with the American Horticultural Society A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants I have a reference that not only COVERS, but ELABORATES on the classroom subject matter! Actually, the encyclopedia was referenced by one of the instructors teaching the class (young enough to be my daughter). When I began to ask more about this reference, she said, "You probably won't really need it." I guess she meant to agree with my son--there's more information there than you'll ever really need. Well, I tend to over-do. I went ahead and ordered it and I'm glad I did! I'd rather have more information than I am looking for than have a gardening question that can not be answered. I have it--the information, that is. Ron CasmerTroy, TX

This encyclopedia on garden flowers is very precise and accurate in describing plants' nature. So you can easily see how each plant is handled, and find out what soil, nutrients are best suited for which flower. Since the illustration is all pictures of flowers, this is a great advantage for easy identification. You may compare some flower seen on your field trip to the picture in the book for easy classification.

Great book for identifying plants. Only problem is the weight of the book.

I recommend this product.

Thank you very much.

So impressed, and especially considering what I paid for it! It's definitely among the favorite among the many gardening books in my library.

A good reference book which does come in handy even with the internet being so accessible.

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