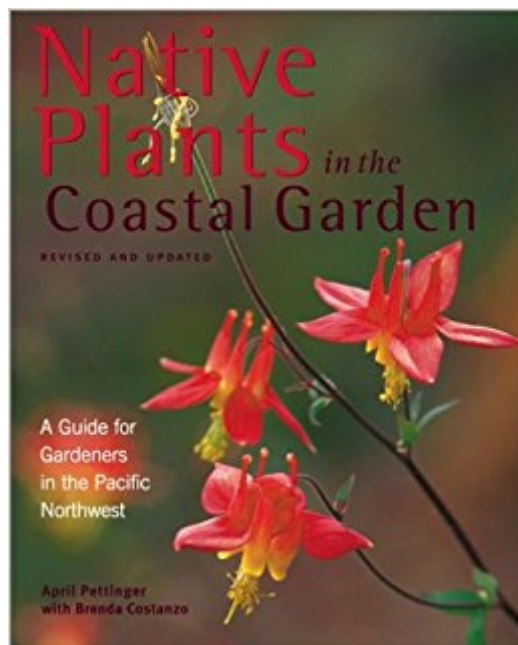




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Native Plants In The Coastal Garden: A Guide For Gardeners In The Pacific Northwest



Synopsis

This new edition of a regional classic has been completely revised, updated, and expanded to include many more facets of the joys and challenges of gardening in the maritime Pacific Northwest. Included are new plant discoveries and information on container gardening, design trends, community education and stewardship, and shoreline habitats. The authors offer comprehensive details for using native plants to transform any garden into a low-maintenance, water-wise paradise that utilizes the beauty of native plants and creates habitats for wildlife.

Book Information

Paperback: 248 pages

Publisher: Timber Press, Incorporated; 2 Revised edition (February 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0881925829

ISBN-13: 978-0881925821

Product Dimensions: 9 x 7.4 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,076,510 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Region > Canada](#) #90 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Region > Pacific Northwest](#) #4256 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Plants](#)

Customer Reviews

Enough information for anyone anywhere, not just on the coast, to make an informed start on a native plant garden. -- Cynthia Cushing, *Western Living*, November 2002

This new edition of a regional classic has been completely revised, updated, and expanded to include many more facets of gardening in the maritime Pacific Northwest. The authors offer comprehensive details for using native plants to transform any garden into a low-maintenance, water-wise paradise that utilizes the beauty of native plants and creates habitats for wildlife.

This is a well meaning book that like the field mouse being designed by committee ends up becoming an elephant. Avoid it, unless the concept of native planting is new to you and your not sure if you should respect it?Deficiencies: There are six, double sided, pages (generally 2 photos

per side) of color photographs, totaling 26 color photos. Additionally, there are three "site plans" illuminating the authors concepts of native planting. The site plans are juvenile and accordingly, serve no purpose. The photographs are grouped in two separate locations in the book, three pages per location. The photographs are of individual native plants and/or groupings of native plants. This would be fine if there were only 26 available and appropriate native plants; however there are thousands (probably tens of thousands) of native plants in the Pacific Northwest. Over two hundred plants are recommended in Part 1: Working with Native Plants and many others are mentioned in passing. Part 2: The Plants and Their Habitats, describes less than one hundred plants in detail (Physical characteristics, where the plant is likely to be found as well as propagation and cultivation information). Many Part 1 recommended plants are included in the Part 2 detail descriptions. This only leaves out thousands of plants. All of the these included plants are covered by 26 color photographs. Additionally, Part 3: Regional Source Guide is heavily weighted to Canada/British Columbia. More than half of all listed resources are in Canada. Oregon, where I live is provided with the fewest. This reflects the bias of the book. Positives: I'm sure the authors meant well. At 232 pages it's short and lightweight (double meaning there) and when you throw it in the trash bin it does not make much noise.

It is truly disappointing when a book about plants, with a beautiful cover turns out to be dull on the inside, visually. I do believe there is a wealth of info in here, but I couldn't believe how many pages of info were written in here about plants without accompanying color photos. Who wants to read a visual description of a plant without the image with it? Seems like a good effort but just not compelling or interesting enough to really be immersed in this book. Some of the plants have line sketches next to them in black and white...I'll give that an E for effort, but they really don't offer much in the way of help with really seeing what any of these plants actually look like. Glad I picked this up from the library and didn't actually pay for it!

This is a revised and updated version of a classic book about gardening with native plants in B.C and the Pacific Northwest. The writers, one with a strong belief in the role of native plants in ecological restoration, the other a botanist who spent 12 years as Assistant Curator in the Herbarium at the University of Victoria, have together produced the most useful book about the topic. Written with the gardener in mind (and a gardener who might not initially be knowledgeable about, or committed to, gardening with native plants) this book is both readable and packed with precisely focussed information. The book is in three parts. The first part, "Working with Native

Plants" covers topics such as designing the garden, what to do about lawns, propagation and gardening for wildlife. I particularly liked the ideas for hedges - eliminating rows of pyramidal cedars and planting native deciduous shrubs. Even, dare I say it, a hedgerow of mixed native shrubs, which would make a more useful wildlife corridor. The second section, "Plants and their Habitats" picks up the theme of plant communities and their cultural requirements, describing in detail forest, shoreline, mountain habitats, etc., and native plants that would grow well there and be valuable to wildlife. The third section is a regional source guide, suggesting sources for plants, further information and education in both Canada and the US. Throughout the book each chapter has plants lists and a generous reading list. The writers, while offering a vast amount of information, are aware that many gardeners will want to move towards this kind of gardening gradually, and the book is full of suggestions for doing this. There are so many reasons for using native plants - for starters they maintain and restore our heritage of local plants and help sustain wildlife. But for those who wish their gardens to be avant garde the writers point out that native plant gardening is the leading edge of gardening today and that the focus is moving away from colour (bright beds of annuals) and towards more emphasis on form and texture. This book will help all Pacific Northwest gardeners have more trouble-free, ecologically responsible and leading edge gardens.

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