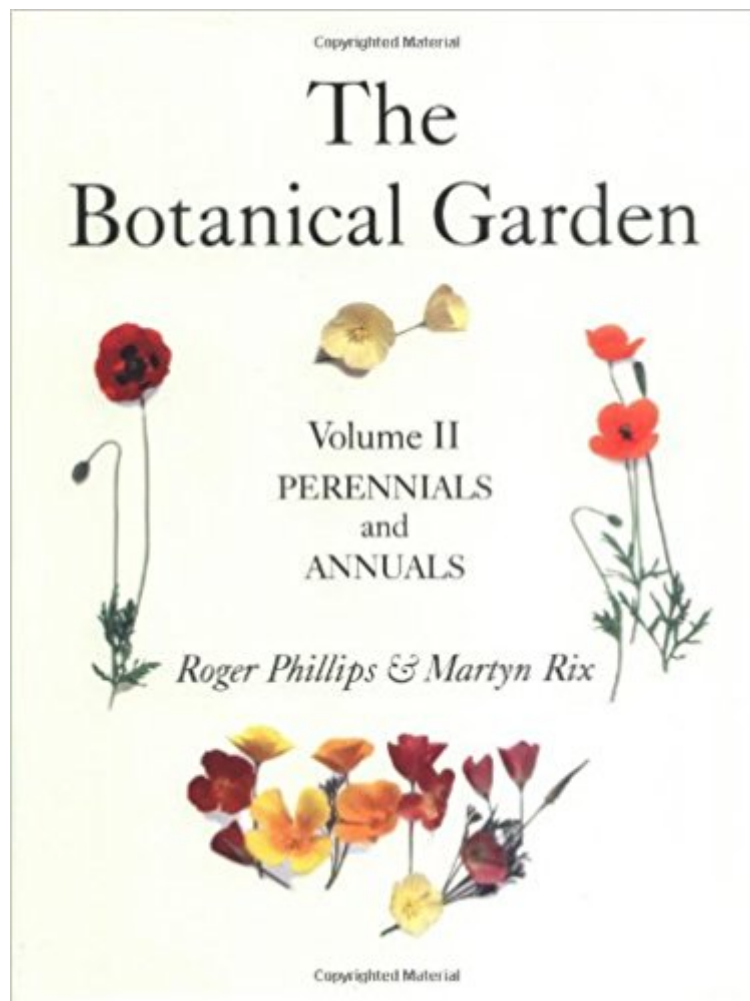




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The Botanical Garden: Volume II: Perennials And Annuals



Synopsis

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 II, Perennials and Annuals The second in the two volumes of The Botanical Garden, this illustrated reference covers 515 genera of herbaceous temperate plants, including annuals, biennials, perennials, bulbs and aquatic plants. All are described in complete detail, including how plants are related and their origins and uses. Previously imprecise classifications are corrected. Listings are organized in evolutionary order, from the ancient plants -- sphagnum moss and ferns -- to the modern irises, hostas and sedges.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Botanists, students and gardeners will delight in these two stunningly illustrated, encyclopedic tomes by photographer Phillips and botanist Rix, pioneers in their respective fields and collaborators on 23 previous titles (most recently *Perennials*). The lavish compendia contain scientific facts and lore about temperate plants like the *Pseudocystodendron* (a shrub with delicate red or pink blossoms cultivated in China and Japan), the *Cornus* (better known here as the dogwood) or the dozens of members of the daisy family (the most evolutionarily advanced of flowering plants). Each entry includes a basic description of the plant plus categories like "Key Recognition Features," "Evolution and Relationships," and "Ecology and Geography." Some of the listings also include advice on cultivation. But that's assuming readers can tear their eyes away from the 4,000-some color photographs, which 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. (Sept.) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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.

The most comprehensive and beautifully photographed flower book I've ever seen. I think it's an incredible resource for artists and gardeners. Each page had photographs of the leaves, flowers and close ups of inner stamen/details of petals etc. Botanical artists especially would love this.

This is great for botanist and gardeners. I am a botanist and will say that these pictures are worth a thousand and one words. It is faster to look through this book than search the web, when you are trying to remember a flower because the images are so clear and vivid. They are arranged by scientific families and there is a glossary of common and scientific names. The book is VERY heavy and the pages are glossy (got for free super saver shipping!). It is necessary that this book be hardback, because it will be used. I have artist friends that have borrowed it to sketch from. Friends have looked through it to get ideas for planting flowers and researching native blooms. I wish I had had this book as a child, because I loved plants then too! Be sure to get the set (book on shrubs too). If you buy the set, instead of one at a time, the books come in a box. I purchased my set in the box while working at the New York Botanical. This box helps protect the spines and hold these huge books upright.

A little awkward to navigate, I would prefer Botanical alphabetical order...you definitely will be going to the index a lot. I would also like to see more specific information on the plant's preferred environment and zones. Excellent illustrations; great for plant I.D.

was a gift. Exactly what the recipient wanted!

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