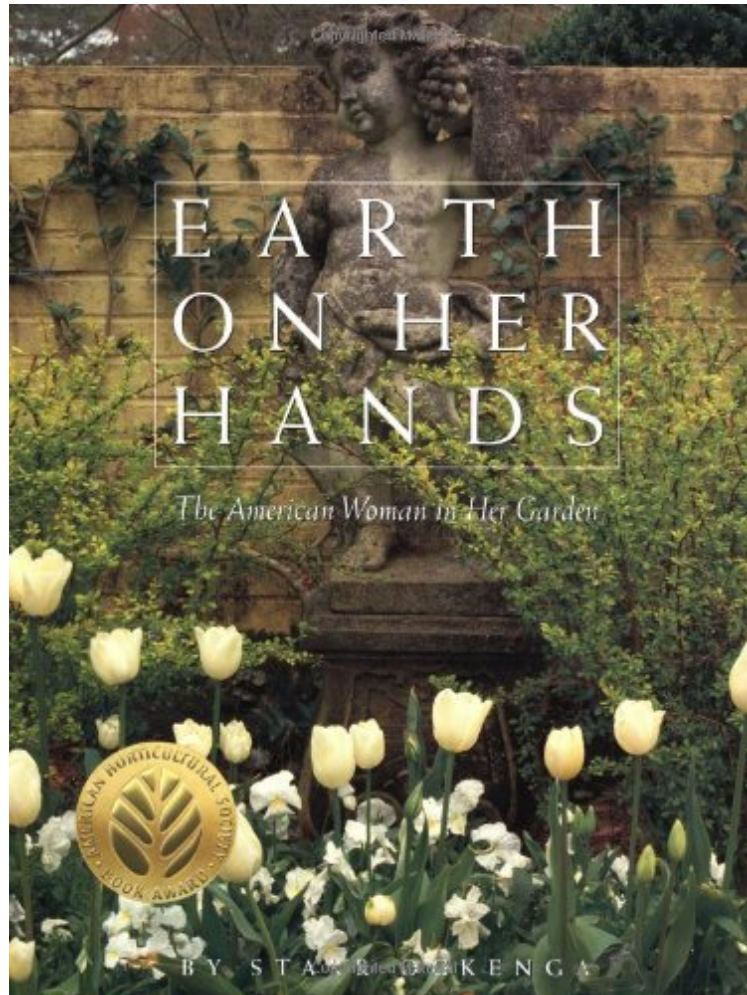


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Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden

Starr Ockenga

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Starr Ockenga : Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not for women only!! By SLSMen: please do not be put off by the title! This book is an inspiration that proves to be accessible to both sexes. Beauty in the garden cannot be bounded by gender lines. The photographs (many of which are full-page, with lovely sepia and white prints of the women themselves) are stunning, and this is one of the few gardening books where I actually read the accompanying text. This is not a how-to-do-it, but more of a how-they-did-it; the stories really capture the continuity that results from a years-long commitment to one's land. For instance, one photo shows how a single plant purchased in the 50s has grown into a sweeping carpet along a stone wall. 18 women and their US spaces are showcased here. (However, Alaska and Hawaii

are not featured and I think this could have made the book even more wonderful.) Each woman gets a separate chapter, complete with pages and pages of well-captioned glossy photos, very readable text, a hand drawing of their garden designs, and several relevant lists. Some of the lists cover woodland carpet plants, white annuals/perennials/bulbs, and personal recommendations. All sorts of gardens - alpine, rock, seaside, miniature/bonsai, water, citrus, huge-scale, small-scale, woodland - make up this large compendium. The book is 12.5 by 9 inches - a great contribution to a field where books seem to be getting smaller and smaller, and its size is really appropriate for the subject matter. This is a book that I would have been thrilled with, sight unseen, and it would make a marvelous gift for someone special in your life, if you could bear to part with it. This one's a keeper, and it will not sit still on your coffee table!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An incomparable and incredibly beautiful book By P.A. Earth on Her Hands is not simply a book; this is a masterful and beautifully written work of art. Ockenga's incredible talent in photography, writing, and horticultural knowledge is unparalleled. The American women's gardens featured in this book are epic and unique works of living art. Every woman's land and garden are different, as are their perspectives, areas of expertise, and personal stories. Many prominent women are featured, including the inimitable Polly Hill. This book will be appreciated by anyone with a love for natural beauty, photography, and creative visions. But, for a gardener, this book is an unmatched treasure. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Motivating By Carol Massie I'm in the middle of my second reading, after buying this used book from .com. The book is very motivating for me, since all the women are well into their golden years (I'm 63). Reading about their gardening experiences, favorite plants they chose and why, and about how involved they were and are, in all the details of nurturing plants...it's just so inspiring and motivating to me! The hand-drawn plans the author did of each garden she included in the book are very helpful. It was a surprise to me that these women use the Latin names of the plants more than common names. I've always thought in terms of common names, and this makes me want to gather so much more information about my own garden and plants. Since reading this book, I've gone online to search out a template for recording individual plant information, as well as how to create a "Garden Planner." It's a great book with lovely photos! Thank you! Carol~

Eighteen masters of American gardening open the gates to their beloved gardens--and to their more than 1,000 collective years of horticultural passion, wisdom, and knowledge--in this exquisitely photographed gift book for every gardener to treasure. 250 color photos.

.com Earth on Her Hands celebrates the kind of people who have quietly and to minimal acclaim, over two centuries, developed and polished American garden style. These are the avid gardeners--mostly women--who establish and support community horticultural organizations and whose own gardens are examples of personal expression with unique local characteristics. Starr Ockenga has interviewed 18 women who have worked and shaped their land, often over the course of several decades, into their dream gardens. From Ellie Spingarn's Connecticut stone wall to Georgie Erskine's Southern California citrus alle, each has features that are unique but fit seamlessly into their environment. There are meadows, orchards, a bonsai garden, vegetable gardens carved out of woodland, one walled English-style garden, and one that's intensely French, with topiaries, espaliered bushes, and a copper-roofed teahouse. Each woman is a plant collector of sorts, and each garden description is accompanied by a list of recommended plants. This is a joyous, soulful book that explores the complexity of garden-building and the effect it has on gardeners' lives.