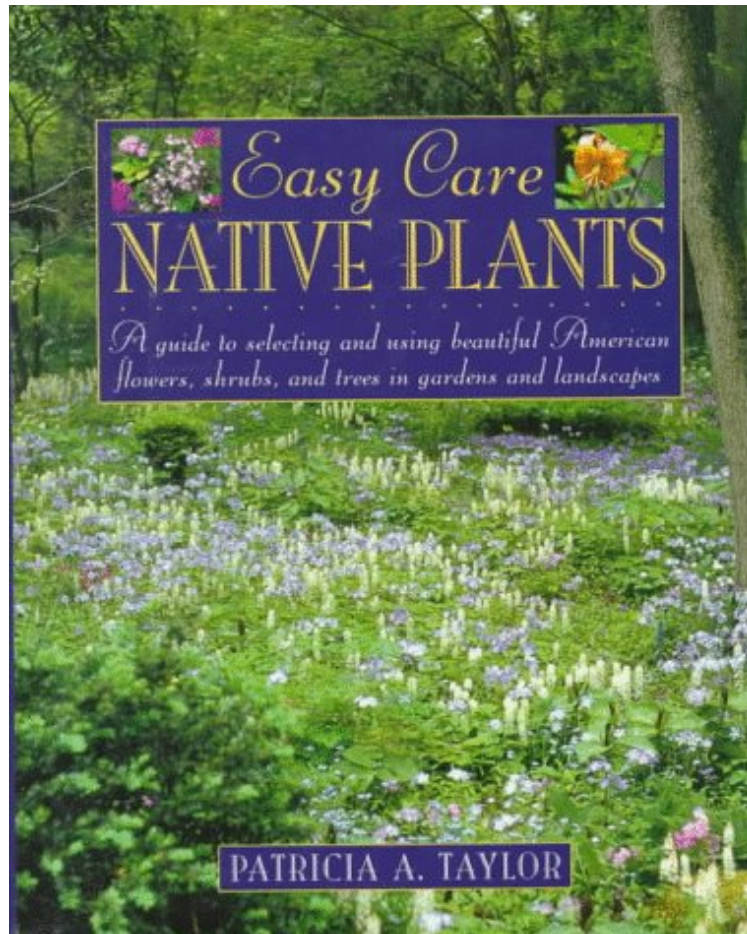


[Library ebook] Easy Care Native Plants: A Guide to Selecting and Using Beautiful American Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees in Gardens and Landscapes

Easy Care Native Plants: A Guide to Selecting and Using Beautiful American Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees in Gardens and Landscapes

Patricia A. Taylor

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Patricia A. Taylor : Easy Care Native Plants: A Guide to Selecting and Using Beautiful American Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees in Gardens and Landscapes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Easy Care Native Plants: A Guide to Selecting and Using Beautiful American Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees in Gardens and Landscapes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great for "regular people" despite a couple of goofs!By Goofy GombaThe outstanding characteristic of this book is that it is USABLE by regular, non-professional busy people who love gardening and nature and especially want to respect native plant communities and plant with sensitivity to their own region.The Bittersweet confusion is terrible, but it is offset by good organization, good photos, and short descriptions on the outside of pages.Another outstanding feature is that the author includes trees, shrubs, and vines, as

well as flowers. This increases the value of this book significantly. Flowers are wonderful, but people need to get a bit beyond flowers--flowers--flowers. For example, many butterfly species depend upon TREES as host plants and then use flowers for nectar. The distinctive Red Admiral uses trees at all stages of life and leaves the flowers for others. Thanks to the author for a good down-to-earth reference that answers practical "ordinary" questions. I have recommended this book to a number of people in "wildlife/habitat gardening" classes and have given several as gifts. . . inserting a note about the Bittersweet :-)! P.S. Yeah, I really should change that ridiculous name. I was under the influence of busy visiting grandchildren when I first reviewed a book here. . . and we do have a great goofy time! 34 of 36 people found the following review helpful. Engaging, well written reference... with a few gaps By I. Westray This is a good choice for the beginning native gardener who needs a sense of the range of native plants available. It's a pleasant browse, and provides a representative sample of the choices you might make with natives. I appreciated the straightforward tone of the writer, who studiously avoided the pretensions of some of the more unctious coffee-table books. Let's just say she's gardening in urban New Jersey, not in northern California, and leave it at that. On the other hand, there are some gaps in Ms. Taylor's knowledge that make this a less than definitive reference. The short version is that she's often recommending a plant based on the sendup of an arboretum or public garden with which she's corresponded, and that sometimes she hasn't done the research to back that recommendation up. For an egregious example, she describes the American form of Bittersweet (*Celastrus Scandens*) in a way that clearly demonstrates that she doesn't know the difference between it and the invasive Asian form. That sort of slip is a real problem, both philosophically and practically, for someone who's into native plants. Oops. All in all, I'd say this is a useful book that gets you interested in the plants, but that you should do a healthy amount of leg work elsewhere before you plant. The research is half the fun anyway... For another native plant reference, with less species but more reliable context and detail, try C. Colston Burrell's *A Gardener's Encyclopedia of Wildflowers*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic price. Great service By Kenneth Behnke Originally saw the book in the library and wanted to buy it. Turns out it was out of production but this site had one at a great price. Received it in a little over a week and am well satisfied.

North America's magnificent plant life has a peculiar history in that it is generally regarded as weedy material in its native meadows and woodlands and viewed as a horticultural treasure trove abroad. In *Easy Care Native Plants*, Patricia A. Taylor seeks to change this situation by emphasizing the elegant beauty, rather than the common naturalness, of American flora and by urging gardeners to capture the exquisite essence of its blossoms and foliage in artistic compositions. The book is divided into three sections, each filled with color photographs and containing special lists of plant recommendations from horticultural experts in the United States, Canada, and Europe. These suggestions include natives for city patios and decks, shrubs for winter interest, colorful flowers for drought situations, and prairie plants for a formal front yard display. The first section reviews the history and current use of native American plants and includes a brief primer on garden design. The second presents profiles of eighteen public and private gardens in Canada and the United States and highlights the crucial role of horticultural organizations and garden clubs in spreading the good news about native flora. The last section is devoted to detailed descriptions of over 500 plants, chosen not only for their handsome appearance but also for their ability to flourish without the use of pesticides or fertilizers. With them, gardeners everywhere will have yearlong beauty requiring minimal maintenance. While many of the plants cited in the book are little known, all are commercially propagated and available. The Appendix lists sources for each plant category and describes a select number of mail-order firms, including ordering information. *Easy Care Native Plants* has been written and designed to be a usable, definitive resource for the full spectrum of those who love and appreciate beautiful plants, from weekend gardeners to landscape designers and architects.

From *Publishers Weekly* This congenial guide from the author of *The Weekender's Gardening Manual* frames a persuasive argument for gardening with low-maintenance native plant material. For centuries, Taylor points out, domestic gardeners have bypassed a wealth of local beauties in favor of high-maintenance prima donna imports. Ironically, the very gardeners they sought to emulate--namely, the British--have long prized many of these neglected American garden gems. Taylor's briskly informative historical background section also charts the growing appreciation of what she calls "our floral heritage" (spurred on by such political champions as Lady Bird Johnson and President Clinton, who required, in a 1994 executive memorandum, that regional plants be used in all federally funded landscaping projects). A section on public and private gardens ranging across the country's gardening zones and climates offers a guided tour, with observations from gardeners specializing in native horticulture and lists of their "top dozen favorites." The final section, "The Plants," delivers detailed descriptions of recommended native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, perennials, etc., and is followed by a helpful appendix of suggested nursery sources. Thoroughly researched and written with humor and verve, Taylor's book is both inspiring and practical and should help win converts to the growing native plant movement. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Taylor (*The Weekender's Gardening Manual*, Holt, 1995) makes a persuasive argument for gardening with native American plants. The hundreds of plants profiled in chapters on trees, shrubs, groundcovers, climbers, bulbs,

annuals, ferns, grasses, and perennials range from the familiar (butterfly weed, tulip tree) to the exotic (balloon vine, fringe cups). All were recommended as "best" by horticulturalists and amateur gardeners, many of whose gardens are described in a section on public and private gardens. Other chapters discuss design, an excellent historical overview of the development of native plants for American gardens, and the use of natives today (for example, in highway beautification). Carole Ottesen's *The Native Plant Primer* (Crown, 1995) covers many of the same plants but at \$50 may be too pricey for some libraries. Taylor's book is highly recommended as a substitute or companion to Ottesen's in both public and academic libraries. Beth Clewis Crim, Prince William P.L., Va. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Taylor begins with a definition of "native plants" and a brief historical review. She follows with a chapter on general design principles, then offers profiles on 11 public and private gardens across the U.S. The bulk of the book contains descriptions of more than 500 native plants, divided into chapters on deciduous trees and conifers; shrubs; groundcovers and wall climbers; bulbs, corms, and tubers; annuals and biennials; ferns and grasses; and perennials. Since the book is primarily about plant selection and not about garden maintenance, there is little information about the latter. There is, however, information on each plant's light requirements, height, bloom period, and foliage color. George Cohen