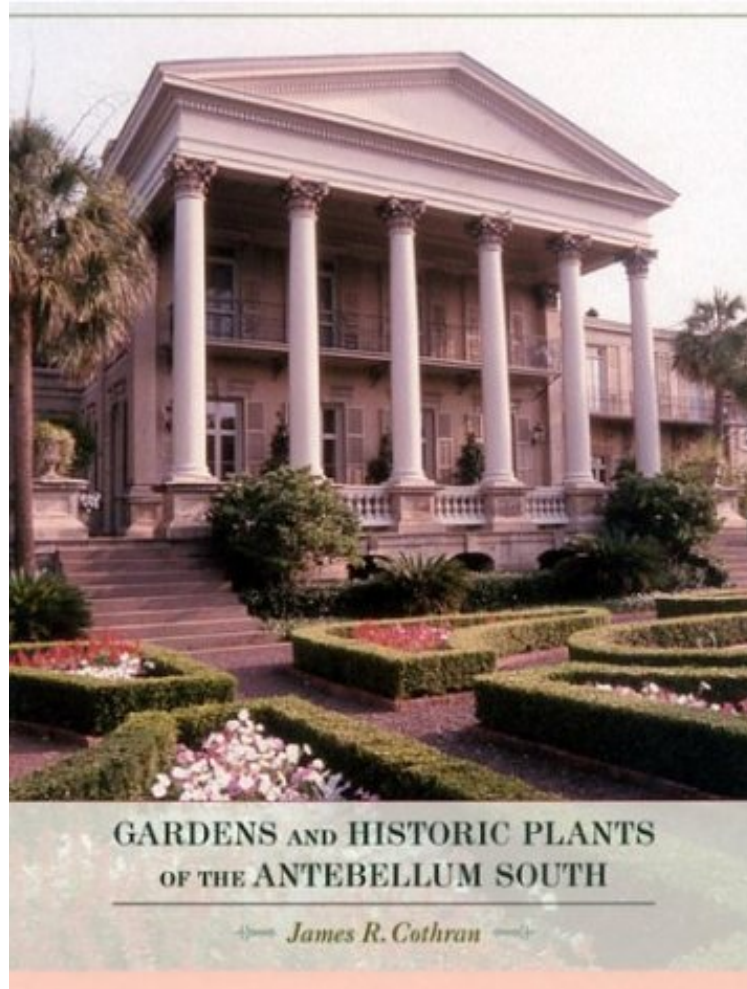


(Library ebook) Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South

# Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South

*James R Cothran*

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#1183997 in Books 2004-01-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 12.24 x 1.12 x 9.341, 4.25 #File Name: 1570035016321 pages | File size: 78.Mb

**James R Cothran : Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Monumental BookBy giHow I wish this book would have been available when I started out as a gardener! It is a dream realized for anyone who gardens in the American South or who is interested in American botanic, cultural, political, or garden history. And for the gardener who is interested in all, as I am, it is an unending source of pleasure and information. I reorganized the gardening books on my bookshelves so this one would be handy.Cothren's research is exhaustive. He's studied seed catalogs, nursery lists, and ships' manifests. He has read the many accounts of travelers to the South in the early 19th century to provide an outsider's view of the distinctiveness of the region's gardens. The garden journals of people like Martha Turnbull of Louisiana, correspondences between gardeners and botanists and nurserymen and gardening friends, sketches and

descriptions of gardens magnificent and humble---all have gone into the making of this book. The author's deep familiarity with the contexts within which gardens and gardeners grow and the way gardening is related to larger issues like trade, economics, and travel trends permits him to write in an effortless, easy style that makes reading a genuine pleasure. The first chapter is a well written "Historical Overview" that includes matters of agriculture, architecture, gardens, planters and plantations, and the effects of the Civil War on gardens. It is followed by most interesting travelers' accounts of the gardens that arose in the Deep South. The chapter on "Forms and Features of Antebellum Gardens and Landscapes" left me dreaming of how I might incorporate parterres and allees in my garden---at that moment! Who knew the subject of fences or hedges could be so interesting? Or that privet, that bane of Southern gardeners, could look so good in outlining paths and borders? A whole chapter is given to "Garden Books, Agricultural Journals, and Nursery Catalogues" so we can see what our forebears were dreaming over and the stock from which they had to choose (a lot more than I had imagined, it turns out!). The gardener who wants to lay eyes on what the people who gardened 150 years ago were seeing, now has directions. Finally, there are the gardens and gardeners themselves. Whereas most garden histories of the ante-bellum South have focused on the landscape history of the great plantations, Cothren's examines gardening practices in both urban and rural areas. We are shown early gardens in New Orleans, Savannah, and towns like Madison, Georgia. Some are real surprises (e.g., the N.O. garden on page 96, which is literally filled with plants.) All are beautiful. The last half of the book is titled "Historic Plants of the Antebellum South and Dates of Introduction"---and it is a joy. Finely chosen and rendered illustrations from botanic drawings, paintings, vintage photography, and life grace every page. Their general consistency in size and placement and their perfection enliven this intriguing section. I've spent a lifetime looking at catalogs and garden books. I've edited a garden magazine. And yet I cannot explain what it is about these photographs that captures the very essence of every plant. If you live in New Orleans or Mobile and don't want to find yourself ordering a *kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel), then I'd suggest you skip page 212. For a second or so, I even thought I should stop whacking back the Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) that would take over my garden if I let it. And who has captured so truly the characteristic beauty of *Michelia figo* (banana shrub), which perfumes Southern gardens in late spring? I won't even mention the camellias and roses. These photographs are works of art in themselves and add immeasurably to the book's value. It is rare that detailed information, clear prose, and brilliant illustrations come together so seamlessly as they do in this most readable and interesting of books. Almost daily, I turn to it for pleasure, for information, for ideas. It is sui generis. Buy it and have it sent express!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well worth the money  
By Cause for the South  
great book  
Wonderful research  
Loved it  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
Historic gardens of the south  
By DB  
This very well written book is a must for anyone interested in the Antebellum gardens and plants of the south. I currently live in the midwest and find information in this book very helpful for the plants that will survive in the midwest. The photos and descriptions are extremely well written.

An illustrated volume featuring botanical prints, lithographs, garden plans, historic photographs, and contemporary photography to reveal the rich garden history of the American South.

"...informative and useful for historic plant enthusiasts, professional garden historians, and gardeners of all sorts." -- Peggy Cornett, director, Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, Monticello  
"Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South fills a niche in southern garden history." -- Gordon W. Chappell, director of landscape, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and coauthor of *The Gardens of Colonial Williamsburg*  
"This book is a must for the serious scholar of landscape history, as well as the interested amateur." -- Rudy J. Favretti, fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects, and professor emeritus, University of Connecticut  
About the Author  
A native South Carolinian, JAMES R. COTHRAN is a practicing landscape architect, urban planner, and garden historian. He holds degrees from Clemson University, the University of Georgia, and the Georgia Institute of Technology, where his academic training included ornamental horticulture, landscape architecture, and city planning. Cothran serves as an adjunct professor at both the University of Georgia and Georgia State University, where he teaches graduate courses on America's historic gardens and landscapes. A fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects, Cothran currently serves on the boards of the Southern Garden History Society, the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, Trees Atlanta, and the Cherokee Garden Library, Center for the Study of Southern Garden History. A member of numerous professional organizations, Cothran is a frequent lecturer on southern garden history. He lives in Atlanta.