

(Download) A Contemplation upon Flowers: Garden Plants in Myth and Literature

A Contemplation upon Flowers: Garden Plants in Myth and Literature

Bobby J. Ward

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Bobby J. Ward : A Contemplation upon Flowers: Garden Plants in Myth and Literature before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Contemplation upon Flowers: Garden Plants in Myth and Literature:

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CustomerThis book is a collection of literary references to flowering plants. It inspires the gardener to plant flowers with a literary plan.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. plant/flower loreBy Cathy HartPacked with a rich amount of myths, facts, history, lore. Both scientific mystical.If you love this sort of thing, you will not be disappointed here. So much amusing fact fancy about each flower plant, whether it's uses in health cures, or said to give courage. uses in perfume, flavoring food. Legends of fairy queens, herbalists, monks, American Indians are only some of this great folk lore. the author is not stingy with information, he gives a goodly amount in a cheerfull manner with tenderness respect for our flowers. I enjoy it immensely will keep it around for future reference.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. contemplation about flowersBy rachel m trahernwell presented - might not appeal to the modern world but it should be read. book in good condition when delivered

This is a perfect bedside book for the literate gardener and makes a terrific gardener's gift book. It is an entertaining survey of 80 plant genera, with a multitude of references to, and extracts from, myth and literature from Shakespeare to the Victorian language of flowers. Based on prodigious research, it includes much literature that has fallen into undeserved obscurity, as well as selections from the great poets. It is a delightful study of the influence of the world's flora on humanity, from the mundane to the mystical.

.com "The snowdrop, in purest white arraie, First rears her hedde on Candlemas daie;" From an early church calendar of English flowers, ca. 1500 As you pick up spade and shovel and head out into the garden, you might want to offer up a prayer for sunny days and rainy nights to one of the patron saints of gardening described by Bobby Ward in this fascinating compilation of horticultural wit and whimsy. Have you ever wondered how flowers get their names, both common and scientific, or what Shakespeare or Milton had to say about roses or honeysuckle? Collected in this fat, satisfying volume are quotations from poetry, plays, and stories written by the ancient Greeks up through the Victorians that trace the rich history of the natural world as captured in myth and literature. Symbolism, traditional medicinal uses, and most of all lyrical tributes to favorite plants from acanthus to zinnia fill the pages of this book, to be read for sheer pleasure or dipped into for information about specific flowers. The book is easy to use compared to many such compilations, in part because it is arranged by type of plant, and because Ward has masterfully woven it all together with a blend of historical and botanical commentary for context. You won't learn from this book how to plant a bulb or grow a tomato, but there are more than enough books on the practical matters of gardening. Rather, folk tales, myths, legends, and lore of the flowers, in the words of sages, saints, herbalists, and poets provide inspiration, humor, and fine reading. --Valerie EastonFrom Library JournalWard, a retired environmental scientist and gardener, has gathered quotations from poems, myths, novels, and plays from ancient Greece to the 19th century to illustrate the literary history of 80 garden plants. He traces the origins of the scientific and common names for each plant and provides its mythological and religious contexts, symbolism in the arts, and traditional medicinal uses, as well as its meaning in the language of flowers. He also mentions unusual uses of flowers as food, for example oil made from the seeds of snapdragons. The most challenging part of his research was verifying that a recognizable common name was applied to the same plant over the years by different writers. Ward is meticulous in identifying the particular plants referred to in the literary selections he quotes, whose sources range from the familiar to the obscure. This book offers much information and entertainment for patrons of large public and academic libraries.ADaniel Starr, Museum of Modern Art, New York Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistWard mentions in his introduction that the word anthology derives from the Greek word for flower gathering--a perfectly apropos description for the impressive bouquet of garden plants presented in this compilation. From acanthus to zinnia, plants have been praised and pondered for centuries. Each entry's plant profile includes fundamental information about a plant and its related species, then goes on to relate historical background. For gardening aficionados who enjoy intriguing bits of little-known lore, the book's references to myth, legend, and the romance of flowers (the begonia symbolizes dark thoughts) will prove satisfying. Calling upon diverse sources that span ancient herbals, the plays of Shakespeare, the poems of Poe, and a wealth of botanical and literary works, Ward engages readers with myriad facts and fantasies that are anything but obvious when pottering about in the garden. If a gardener's curiosity about plants seems to increase the longer one plants, prunes, and propagates, this excellent meditation on plants will help appease such inquisitive tendencies. Alice Joyce