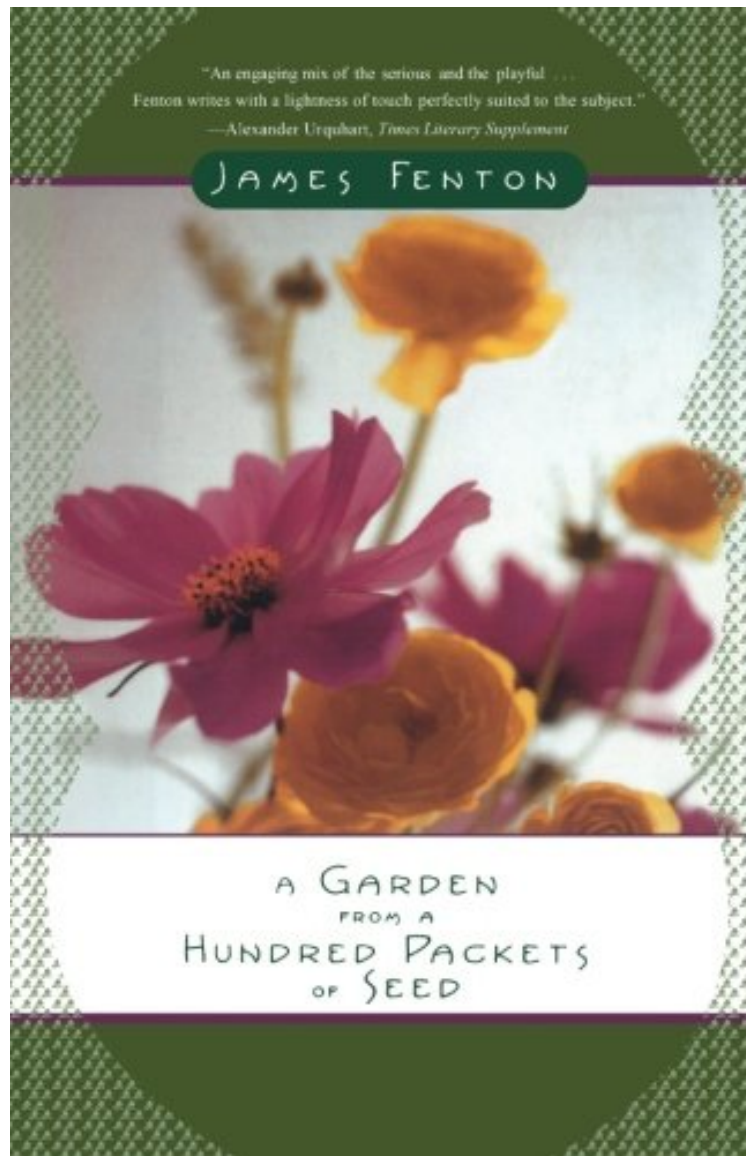


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A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seed

James Fenton

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#1655489 in Books James Fenton 2005-04-20 2005-03-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .1 x 5.50l, .24 #File Name: 0374528772125 pages A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seed | File size: 76.Mb

James Fenton : A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seed before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seed:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Poet's Garden By Foster Corbin The British poet James Fenton has given us here in this slim volume a list of the plants one would grow if one were given a "blank slate of a garden" and "given the stipulation that everything you grow in this garden must be raised by you from seed." Mr. Fenton's definition of a garden is large and encompassing: It "must include a spectacular one that I saw. . . in Manhattan, which

consisted of nothing but morning glories grown on a fire escape, high up above the street. . . or a row of hyacinths in glasses" as well as gardens at Versailles. Some of the groups the writer discusses are broken down as to color, size, flowers for cutting, climbers, and what he calls "Flowers That Hop Around." He also lists several books on growing flowers in his "reference library", equipment and the 100 seed list in the end of the book. This book is obviously not a treatise on growing flowers. You'll need to refer to other books unless you have a lot of experience. (I was feeling a bit overwhelmed by all this information until I'm told that Mr. Fenton has a fulltime gardener.) Additionally, there are no color photographs here of the various varieties. Mr. Fenton's list is highly subjective. He tells us why he eliminates some flowers and includes others; there are no cottage pinks, for example, because they all have been either bought or given to him as plants. What I was hoping for in this book I didn't find-- that the writer might somehow tie up poetry and flowers. He certainly didn't have to, but he does make interesting asides on occasion. He opines that one can tell from his photographs that Robert Mapplethorpe "loved flowers" but that we wouldn't have expected him to like plants. And in discussing false bishop's weed, Mr. Fenton intimates that all bishops are false! You have to tip your hat to a poet who gardens. This little book would make an ideal and unusual gift for your favorite gardener. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A gem for gardeners who like to read By flora A small treasure of information and fresh ideas. This author tosses plant snobbery out the window and selects 100 varieties, mostly annuals, which are easily grown from seed, he does make an exception regarding tarragon and wisely says "buy a plant". From the beginning he sets about demonstrating how to plan a garden that will provide beauty, joy and cut flowers from only a few inexpensive packets of seed. His discriminating choices leave me brimming with new ideas. Find a copy and snatch it up this useful well written book should be in print. I found mine in our neighborhood book exchange box. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Why was this written By Barbara McAuliffe This isn't a bad book, I just don't know who on earth this was written for. It's not for a real gardener. I am a real gardener and I got absolutely nothing from this. And by that I don't mean that he told me stuff I already knew. I mean he offered me nothing at all that would help me in the garden. It's not for a novice gardener. There is nothing in this that would help a novice decide what they should grow. It may be meant as a stocking stuffer, but the flyleaf in my copy says it's 18.00. I think that's way too high for a casual gift. I gather the author is a renowned poet. There is nothing of poetry in this. It's a pleasant book, but that is the most I would say about the writing. I paid 50 cents on half price day at my library book sale. If you can get it for 50 cents you might enjoy this. Any thing more will leave you annoyed that you have been ripped off.

"An engaging mix of the serious and the playful, and Fenton writes with a lightness of touch perfectly suited to the subject." --Alexander Urquhart, *The Times Literary Supplement* Forget structure. Forget trees, shrubs, and perennials. As James Fenton writes, "This is not a book about huge projects. It is about thinking your way toward the essential flower garden, by the most traditional of routes: planting some seeds and seeing how they grow." In this light hearted, instructive, original "game of lists," Fenton selects one hundred plants he would choose to grow from seed. Flowers for color, size, and exotic interest; herbs and meadow flowers; climbing vines, tropical species--Fenton describes readily available varieties, and tells how to acquire and grow them. Here is a happy, stylish, unpretentious, and thought-provoking gardening book that will beguile and inspire both novice and expert alike.

From Booklist Marry the soul and sensitivity of a poet with the passion and prowess of a dedicated gardener and the result would be Fenton, who has created a wee gem of a book, hardly bigger than the packet of seeds he rhapsodizes about, based on a fascinating premise: given an empty garden and starting solely by seed, what plants would you choose to grow? Examining only a plant's essential quality, be it color, foliage, fragrance, or form, Fenton postulates that it's possible to develop a stunning garden by considering only the most inherent properties, relegating loftier goals such as design and structure to secondary positions. Speaking with obvious experience and unabashed enthusiasm, Fenton presents his Top 100 list of reliable and remarkable garden performers with erudite charm and tongue-in-cheek wit, so vividly describing these garden treasures as to conjure up halcyon visions in the mind's eye. With seed catalog in one hand and Fenton's guide in the other, this unique way of producing a glorious garden becomes a sensory adventure. Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Blatantly flouting current gardening convention, Fenton eschews the tedium of planning a plots bones, or layout, in favor of growing flowers that simply appeal to one for their own sake." Kirkus s About the Author James Fenton is a poet, critic, and gardener. From 1994 to 1999 he was Professor of Poetry at Oxford, where he has created a noted garden. He writes about poetry, art history, and gardening for the New York of Books.