

A Garden in the Shade

Harriet Cramer

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Harriet Cramer : A Garden in the Shade before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Garden in the Shade:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent guide to choice in shade part shadeBy Roses in GrayslakeThis is a book that I checked out of the library at least a dozen times, so I was happy to be able to purchase it. Mr. Cramer has an artist's eye and a practical manner. I have gotten tremendous inspiration from this book, from choice of plants to placement to companion plants. I have read at least a dozen books on this topic and Mr. Kramer's is by far the most helpful to me.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice introduction to the subject....By Dianne FosterWith hundreds of books on the market, how can one choose which one will prove most informative about gardening in the shade? For my money, George Schenk's book THE COMPLETE SHADE GARDENER is the best buy, but Schenk's book has few colorful photographs and most folks are drawn to pretty images.A GARDEN IN THE SHADE by Harriet Cramer is a nice introduction to the subject. Although Cramer provides some interesting tidbits about raising plants in adverse circumstances (most plants like some sunlight) there is much she leaves out, which might be just as well for the new gardener. Cramer's book seems to be geared toward the large garden, one where the gardener has enough space to plant a thousand bulbs under a grove of trees. Some people have this much space, but they are just the sort to hire a gardener and not need the book to begin with. On the other hand, the book contains lovely photos, so one can point to a picture and say to the hired gardener "This is what I would like!"Although Cramer discusses "understory" plants--bushes, perennials, annuals, ferns, etc. she does not devote much space to the "overstory." One strength of Schenk's book is that he actually does classify trees by their

willingness to accommodate plants at their feet. Some trees are inhospitable--maples for example, but few books on shade gardening point out that you might as well slam your head on the garden gate if you plan to build a garden in the shade and have no idea what sorts of trees are casting the shade. Gardeners soon discover that "shade gardening" means spring flowering, and sure enough, most of the photos in Cramer's book were taken in spring when the leaves were off the trees. The rest of the year, you'll be attempting to grow non-flowering plants that can live in the dark. There are a few plants that will produce a bloom or two in the shade--after the leaves appear--but they are few and far between. If you shade garden, think green. Schenk's book is for the intimate garden, one on a small parcel of land. He also devotes a good deal of space to plants--about 200 pages. Cramer's book contains many fewer pages on plants, and those she shows mostly do well in her Pennsylvania garden. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice introduction to the subject....By Dianne Foster With hundreds of books on the market, how can one choose which one will prove most informative about gardening in the shade? For my money, George Schenk's book **THE COMPLETE SHADE GARDENER** is the best buy, but Schenk's book has few colorful photographs and most folks are drawn to pretty images. **A GARDEN IN THE SHADE** by Harriet Cramer is a nice introduction to the subject. Although Cramer provides some interesting tidbits about raising plants in adverse circumstances (most plants like some sunlight) there is much she leaves out, which might be just as well for the new gardener. Cramer's book seems to be geared toward the large garden, one where the gardener has enough space to plant a thousand bulbs under a grove of trees. Some people have this much space, but they are just the sort to hire a gardener and not need the book to begin with. On the other hand, the book contains lovely photos, so one can point to a picture and say to the hired gardener "This is what I would like!" Although Cramer discusses "understory" plants--bushes, perennials, annuals, ferns, etc. she does not devote much space to the "overstory." One strength of Schenk's book is that he actually does classify trees by their willingness to accommodate plants at their feet. Some trees are inhospitable--maples for example, but few books on shade gardening point out that you might as well slam your head on the garden gate if you plan to build a garden in the shade and have no idea what sorts of trees are casting the shade. Gardeners soon discover that "shade gardening" means spring flowering, and sure enough, most of the photos in Cramer's book were taken in spring when the leaves were off the trees. The rest of the year, you'll be attempting to grow non-flowering plants that can live in the dark. There are a few plants that will produce a bloom or two in the shade--after the leaves appear--but they are few and far between. If you shade garden, think green. Schenk's book is for the intimate garden, one on a small parcel of land. He also devotes a good deal of space to plants--about 200 pages. Cramer's book contains many fewer pages on plants, and those she shows mostly do well in her Pennsylvania garden.

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From Booklist Cramer explains the soil, water, air, fertilizing, and mulching requirements needed for a successful shade garden and explores design tactics that make the most of a shady garden site. She discusses the importance of light and shadow, color, texture, form, and layering. The bulk of the book is a compilation of shade-tolerant plants: small trees, evergreen trees, deciduous and evergreen shrubs, perennials, annuals, ornamental grasses, ferns, and bulbs. Each plant's shade tolerance or preference or both is given, along with its size, aesthetic value, cultural needs, landscape uses, insects and diseases, and cultivars. Each has a color photograph. A final chapter contains a brief text and photographs of a variety of gardens--from a planting in and around a rock wall to a spring garden on the edge of a woods. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved