

(Download pdf ebook) American Gardens: A Tour of the Nation's Finest Private Gardens

# American Gardens: A Tour of the Nation's Finest Private Gardens

*Peter Loewer*

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**Peter Loewer : American Gardens: A Tour of the Nation's Finest Private Gardens** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Gardens: A Tour of the Nation's Finest Private Gardens:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not very goodBy Garden books buyerKnowingly buying a used book is risky based on someone else's grading. I have bought several listed as very good and was very happy with the purchase, this was not the case with the American Gardens book. It came with no dust jacket as pictured the pages looked water damaged and yellowed should have been rated fair to good tops. Disappointed with this one.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Don't botherBy JessicaSIf you ever looked at a garden book from Europe that shows these perfect, enormous gardens with massive roses, hedges and topiaries everywhere and thought 'my garden will never look half as good as that!' Then don't despair. Get a copy of this book and your standards will lower greatly.Seriously, this author will take a picture of a bush and a couple of flowers and declare it to be 'one of the great American gardens'. The rooftop garden in New York City is pretty neat and unusual, but I safely bet that anybody who has the slightest garden interest, probably could be featured on the cover.The writing style is so pompous. At the end of the book is a chapter on gardening advice and it starts off with, "It's one thing to look over page after page of glorious garden photos, being kept in a state of perpetual envy by the passing parade of spectacular flowers and requisite settings and quite another to achieve the same effect in your own backyard..." Gee Whiz. I could go down to the hardware store right now and buy three bushes, a handful of tulip bulbs and a couple of hostas and be on page 72

in 20 minutes. Also it's annoying how the author introduces each garden. The garden will be in some town and there's a mini history lesson that has nothing to do with the garden itself. Just because I live in Virginia, doesn't mean George Washington had anything to do with my land. In fact, time and again, I was expecting that a particular garden would have some historical merit. NOPE. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Master American Gardening By Bert Ruiz "American Gardens: A Tour of the Nation's Finest Private Gardens," by Peter Loewer brilliantly captures the horticultural genius of master gardeners across the United States. Moreover, the diverse photography on nearly every page of this beautiful book allows it to double as a coffee table selection. But be diligent...because your guests may decide to take it home with them. The author provides an extensive menu of gardens. It includes perennial gardens, rock gardens, woodland gardens, desert gardens, shrub gardens, city townhouse gardens and even rooftop gardens. The gardens also include a broad range of climates, terrains, styles and sizes. For pure artistry the "Garden of Roses," by Bruce Krasberg in suburban Winnetka, Illinois, a city north of Chicago, on Lake Michigan is a beautiful testimony to our national flower. However, my favorite garden is that of Elsa Bakalar in northwestern Massachusetts, not too far from Brattleboro, Vermont. Her garden is actually a patchwork of individual gardens, pieces here and there that add up to an acre on a property of about five acres that includes a pond, a big meadow, and some woods. Bakalar designed giant beds with blends of color schemes mixed in with natural backgrounds. Still and all, the true value of this book for gardeners is "Part Two: Great Ideas for Your Garden." It includes a section on seasonal specialties, gardens in containers, statuary and ornaments and finally paths and paving. The author also provides an outstanding index of sources of supply from plant societies, regional gardening resources, commercial seed companies and mail order nurseries. And finally the text also has a detailed bibliography. This book would make a great gift for the gardener in the family. Highly recommended. Bert Ruiz

A tour of thirty of the nation's finest private gardens is accompanied by more than two hundred color photographs that cover such varieties as rock gardens, woodland gardens, desert gardens, and rooftop gardens.

From Publishers Weekly Loewer ( Gardens by Design ) and a team of excellent photographers here ferret out 30 exemplary gardens representing all regions of the country (included are a Chicago rose garden, a Maryland grass garden and several desert gardens, to name but a few). They range in size from 50 square feet to five acres, and celebrate native horticultural ingenuity at work within geographic and climatic confines. Assessing each plot by interviewing the gardener responsible for it, Loewer successfully conveys the whys and wherefores of sundry gardening schemes but falters in capturing and characterizing the individual vision impelling these. Disappointingly, strong-minded floral judgment is reduced to mere matters of fact, despite the potential for colorful portraiture in such a gardener as Charles Goodwin, whose devotion to annuals produced 723 different varieties on his grounds in 14 years. Though Goodwin's methods are evaluated, his story isn't told. The author's horticultural knowledge and discrimination serve him well, but his words wither in a realm ripe with possibilities. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.