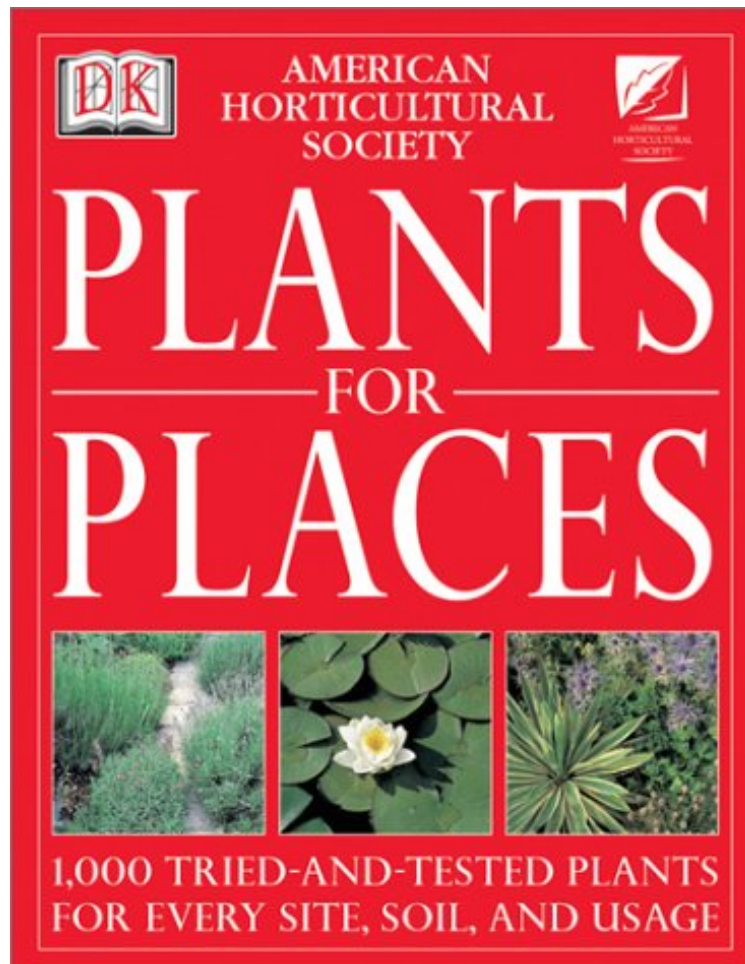


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## American Horticultural Society Plants for Places

Anna Kruger

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**Anna Kruger : American Horticultural Society Plants for Places** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Horticultural Society Plants for Places:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CLBExcellent resource for gardeners.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. American Horticultural Society Small Plant Encyclopedic guides are great!By widewomanThis book, AHS Plant for Places, is another of a series of small format (about 5.5" tall x 4.25" wide)books of a handy size to pack with you when you go shopping. I bought AHS Great Plant Guide it was because it was an AHS book, and a DK book, which meant that it was going to have those GREAT PICTURES that all the DK books do and because it was an encyclopedic list of all kinds of plants that I may run into while out plant shopping and would help me decide if said plant may grow well in my location because they have these little symbols at the bottom of each entry that summarize the plants growth requirements as well as how tall and wide it gets whether it needs a well drained to wet soil, sun, shade or partial sun, and it also indicates the USDA growing zones the plant will likely grow

in, it also has a heat index indicator something most books don't include and there is a USDA zone map inside the front cover and the Heat index map inside the back cover. These books are NOT exhaustive treatments for each plant, it's not possible in the limited amount of space, but it is amazing how much information they have managed to include as the book is intended to guide you to plants that will grow in the place you have available. When people look at these books next to one another some may flip through them and say.. they're redundant.. they have the same plants in each book! Why would you buy more than just The AHS Great Plant Guide as it is the one which is more dictionary or encyclopedic like, in that you can look up each plant within a grouping ..more or less alphabetically, and then read the information included for each plant that way. So why bother with the other books? Well if you are trying to plan out a garden to include plants that will grow in a particularly difficult situation, like a shady location .. usually most of us think of shady areas as being moist but ..they aren't always moist, there are areas that are shady but DRY too. Well how about if that shady and dry place was also acidic or alkaline or the soil was sandy or heavy clay. You generally don't have the cultural and growth requirements of every plant stored away in your head and even if you have a pretty good knowledge of plants, it's still easier if a book sorts out plants into "Plants for...." fill in the situation.. Alkaline soil, acidic soil, for Hot Dry sites, For Hedges, for Damp sites in the shade, Dry sites in the shade; For North East facing walls or South West facing walls; plants for containers in the shade or containers in the sun; plants for cutting, plants for shape structure, and so on. Some plants will overlap and they'll refer you to a page number. There is a list of symbols that give an idea of a plants light requirements, zone range, heat index range, average height and width of mature plants. So with this book you can go out looking for something that may grow in that area where "everything I put there dies" by the condition of the soil/heat/light/acidic or alkaline nature of the soil. Then if you are trying to make sure you have the yard set up so there will be something blooming for every part of the year, That's what the AHS Plants for Every Season book is for. With the combination of the books which, yes, do overlap and talk about the same plants, just in different ways. Read the introduction to each book as that will tell you how to USE the book, and how to get the most from the book based on its intended use. 3 books more or less the same plants in each book (Great Plant Guide may have more listed as it says it was revised and updated at the time I bought it and that it contained 1,000 more plants than previous edition and covered 3000 recommended plants) where the other 2 books say they cover 1000 plants Tried and tested Plants for every site, soil and usage on the Plants for Places. and 1000 Recommended plants for color all year round for Plants for Every Season. So it all depends on the intended use of the book and plants and so on. Granted, when I bought this book it was more or less just because it went with those other books I already had. I didn't even know there WAS another of these type books as various places just chose to carry the Great Plant Guide, so when I spotted it.. I went OoOoOoOoo.. gotta get that as it goes with the set! I didn't even consider the use of the book, I just wanted it because it went with what I had. And given I don't own an estate.. I only have 50 x 150 feet of land on this earth, and I try to grow the world on that little patch of ground (have 4 new fruit trees waiting to be planted now and another to come along with berries) My main focus is how to grow as much as I can in my limited space and how to change the soil to make it meet the requirements of the plant I want to grow, rather than trying to choose the plant to fit the ground I have. BUT, it would be far more practical to find something that likes what I have, if I were only growing things as a landscape gardener rather than food gardener first. Of course, you CAN grow food plants as landscape plants too and there are books about that out there too if that's your interest. But I find this book to be useful to help you find the best option for the soil and light conditions etc you have. When you're out there at the green house or the plant store, and you have all those plants to choose from, and your eye is caught by one or one hundred or more if you're like me and you want to take them all home, this book will help you sort out which of those plants are likely to actually survive that difficult spot you want to fill. It would be best to look at the name of the plant, then look it up in the book and see where it falls.. OR if you're really smart, look in the book BEFORE you go and decide which plants you want to look at and make some calls before you go to determine which places actually HAVE those plants and if they're in your price range, then determine which of those places you want to go to. Not all places take care of their plants, or know anything about what they're selling etc, and it doesn't take long to figure out which one of the places can answer a question about the plants they're selling, and by looking at the plants in mid afternoon on a hot day you'll be able to figure out if they actually attend to the plants needs or just water on a "schedule" rather than the need of the plant. such as.. hmmm those plants look a bit wilted better water them now.. not because it's time to go out according to a schedule. Plus if they actually water the plants rather than water at them for a few seconds rather than actually watering and re-watering until the plant is actually wet. It makes me crazy when I see the hired help in stores watering and the aren't any wetter when they finish than they were when they started because the peat based soil just sheds the water. But I digress. The book is good for it's intended purpose, helping you chose plants for specific sites or soil types. It's NOT an exhaustive source for every plant. It's NOT going to give you a LOT of information on each plant. It's not intended to be an exhaustive treatment. so if you want extensive information about a plant you can use this as a starting point to then go look up specific items elsewhere in other books and if you want even MORE information you can find books that deal with one genus or species, but this book, particularly when combined with the other two books I have in the series (there may be even more in the series, but if there are I'm not aware of them) you can pretty well figure out if a plant will live in the situation you have and figure out when it's likely

to bloom (if it's a flowering plant), and how large it will grow under ideal conditions. I am happy I got it, but then I don't usually do much with the books I buy like this. I get them look at them, and put them up on the shelf where they stay until I have a call to look something up, which granted used to be far more often than it has been lately since my health failed. I'm a book freak in that I like just HAVING the books so I'm not so sure my opinion can be trusted if you want to know how USEFUL the plant is for your needs ;-). I like the format for ease of transport and use while actually in the greenhouse, I love the picture quality and there's a picture for each plant, but they often do as most do, focus on one part of the plant usually the bloom if it's a flowering plant, but It does include the foliage along side the flower in most cases at least. I've repeated myself too much here and so I'll stop now .. hope you can glean something useful from my ramblings.

Make your next trip to the garden center a pleasure. Rely on the expertise and authority of the American Horticultural Society to choose plants that are specifically suited to the needs of your garden. For quick and easy reference, plants are listed under a range of specific sites and soils, from damp, shady spots to exposed situations, and for a range of uses from attracting wildlife to choosing the best climbers for pergolas. With full-color photographs and growing information for more than 1,000 tried-and-tested plants this is the perfect pocket-sized guide for trips to the garden center and nursery.

About the AuthorThe American Horticultural Society (AHS) educates and inspires people of all ages to become successful and environmentally responsible gardeners by advancing the art and science of horticulture.