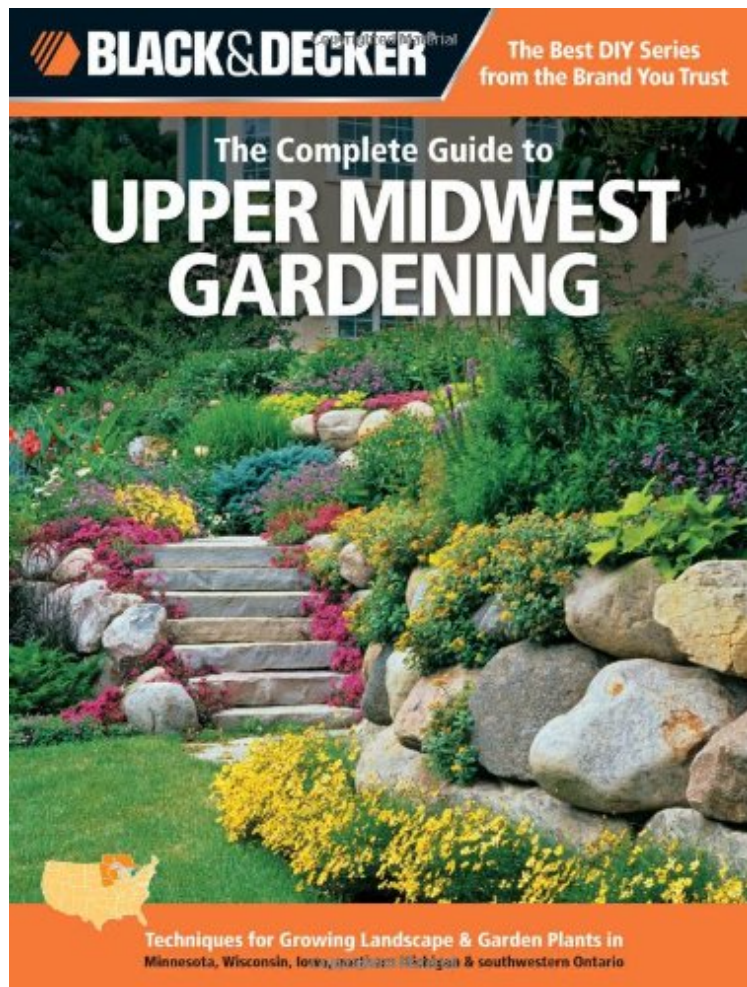


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Black Decker The Complete Guide to Upper Midwest Gardening: Techniques for Growing Landscape Garden Plants in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, northern ... Ontario (Black Decker Complete Guide)

Lynn M. Steiner

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Lynn M. Steiner : Black Decker The Complete Guide to Upper Midwest Gardening: Techniques for Growing Landscape Garden Plants in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, northern ... Ontario (Black Decker Complete Guide) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Decker The Complete Guide to Upper Midwest Gardening: Techniques for Growing Landscape Garden Plants in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, northern ... Ontario (Black Decker Complete Guide):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Zone Friendly BookBy Paul MeinkeHave been looking for advice in a concise manor and this was good. Well organized nd laid out. lots of pictures garden plan ideas to help stir the creative thinking process, Great for your library.

This book offers a didactic, practical approach that allows novice to intermediate residential gardeners to experience success with their vegetable, fruit, and ornamental gardens. This is not an attempt at a comprehensive Bible of gardening information, but a complete but focused treatment of plant species and simple, time saving techniques that maximize the homeowners likelihood of succeeding with his or her garden. Contains regional information for the following states in USDA zones 2, 3 and 4: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Upper Michigan, and northern Lower Michigan.

Adding to Black Deckers line of DIY books, The Complete Guide to Gardening is divided into seven region-specific volumes. All include the same instructions and general information, but Steiner (Rain Gardens; Prairie-Style Gardens) tailors the plant suggestions and climate data. Strengths include an excellent introduction on the importance of botanical names, soil type, and soil pH as well as definitions of key terms such as herbaceous and dioecious. Easy-to-follow instructions and copious color photographs cover the preparation, planting, care, and maintenance of various garden types; other topics include the basics of good design and propagating methods. Steiner does mention some of the benefits of using native plants, but it would have been helpful to highlight them so they could be recognized at a glance. She also mentions the importance of avoiding invasive plants; the information is not region-specific, but checking invasiveplantatlas.org is suggested. A handy reference card listing websites of state extension offices and native plants is also included. VERDICT: Overall, these books provide a very good introduction to and broad overview of gardening with excellent step-by-step instructions. The handy index of plants common names is also helpful for beginners. - Library Journal