

ALL ABOUT THE Perennial Garden

MONTAGUE FREE



THE AMATEUR GARDENER'S HANDBOOK OF HARDY
FLOWERS: HERBACEOUS AND WOODY PERENNIALS
INCLUDING BULBS AND SHRUBS, BIENNIALS
AND ANNUALS.

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HERBACEOUS AND WOODY PERENNIALS, INCLUDING

BULBS AND SHRUBS, BIENNIALS AND ANNUALS

WITH 153 PHOTOGRAPHS, 5 FULL-COLOR ILLUSTRATIONS,

AND 22 LINE DRAWINGS

by Montague Free

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FORMERLY HORTICULTURIST, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

GRADUATE OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW, ENGLAND

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Preface

For more than fifty years I have been more or less concerned with hardy herbaceous perennials—in England, at the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, on the estate of the late Ellen Willmott, and at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England; in this country, in the Department of Agriculture at Cornell University, the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, and for thirty years at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. In spite of this long association herbaceous perennials have not lost their charm and interest and it was with enthusiasm that I started to grow them four years ago in a perennial garden designed to provide illustrative material for this book and to serve as sort of refresher course for me.

While a flower garden can be made of none but herbaceous perennials, better results are possible, as in the case of a turkey dinner, when some trimmings are used. So, although the book is mainly about herbaceous perennials, some attention has been given to annuals, biennials, and shrubs—woody perennials.

More than 500 perennials are described or mentioned. For the benefit of those to whom botanical names are frightening, a list of common names with their scientific equivalents is given on pages 328–337. It should be pointed out, though, that not all plants have English names and that scientific names are necessary when precision is required.

Although this book is written largely from the viewpoint of a gardener in the Northeast, the principles of culture are valid throughout the United States and Canada. I would guess, too, that most of the plants mentioned could be grown anywhere in these countries, except, perhaps, in Southern Florida and in the hot desert

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regions. Those who live in difficult climatic regions would do well before ordering any plants to submit their lists for approval to a local authority, a county agricultural agent, or to the state agricultural experiment station unless they have an urge to experiment and are willing to take a chance.

My thanks go to my former colleague, Ralph Bailey, for his help and encouragement in the preparation of this book; and, as always, to my good wife.

Hyde Park, New York.
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