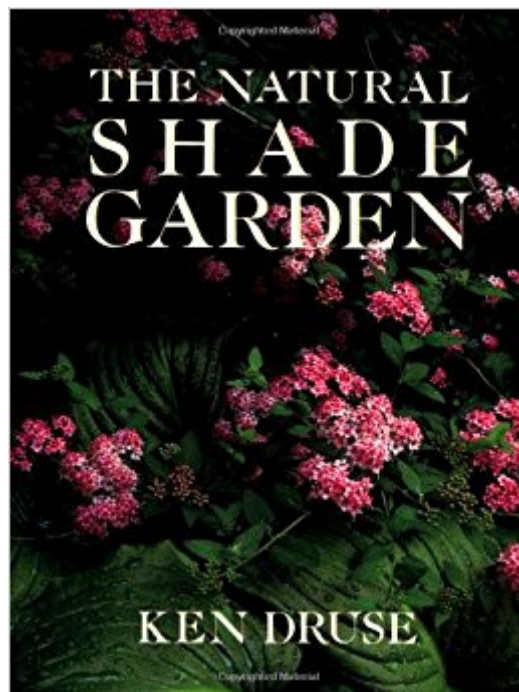


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The Natural Shade Garden



Synopsis

Ken Druse's Natural Garden Guides: Award-winning gardening expert Ken Druse offers a personal selection of 80 ideal plants for the natural gardener, drawn from his best-selling classic *The Natural Shade Garden*. This companion guide is illustrated throughout with 130 of Druse's spectacular color photographs. All-new descriptions discuss the origins of each plant, supply the pronunciation of their Latin names, and offer information on their ultimate size, time of bloom, light and soil requirements, cold hardiness, and special interest, such as colorful berries or butterfly attraction. Here, too, is indispensable advice for using these plants with companions to create striking designs. Each section has an original introduction presenting valuable techniques for making your own natural garden. An appendix gives mail-order sources. In *80 Great Natural Shade Garden Plants* Ken Druse selects the best plants for natural gardening in the shade: Ornamental Shrubs • Perennials for Flowers • Perennials for Foliage • Ground Covers and Vines • The Best Hostas • The Best Ferns

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Shade can be a gardener's curse or delight, depending on how it's managed. Even a heavy grove of mature trees needn't have bare ground beneath; they can be surrounded with any number of shade-loving foliage, grasses, or grasslike ground covers, including galax, dichondra, ivy, vinca, wintergreen, maidenhair fern... the list of possibilities is a long one. Druse himself gardens in the shadow of a Brooklyn brownstone, so his advice is by no means limited to gardeners with woodland acreage. This book also successfully punctures the myth that a shady flower garden must be

colored in greens and subtle pastels: a parade of brilliant camellias, columbines, clematis, and primula proves that a shade gardener's crayon box is as varied as any, and the well-organized Druse sorts the herbaceous perennials by color in an addendum at the back of the book.

While the idea of shade gardening has cropped up from time to time in garden manuals, Druse (*The Natural Garden*) effectively defines a new American horticultural aesthetic with this enthusiastic volume. He brings clear, engaging writing and gorgeous color photographs (his own) to bear on just about every category of plant and terrain relevant to his subject, and explores the fine differences between "partial shade," "light shade," "dappled shade" and "deep shade" with an appetite that will hearten any gardener whose plot has a tree or a tall building nearby. Druse encourages American gardeners to "live with shade," cultivating native plants that are naturally adapted to shady habitats, augmented by choice species from around the world or hybrids that blend in. He begins with a general discussion of natural shade habitats and shade plant features, and goes on to cover the use of containers, water and other special elements appropriate for shade gardens. The book is especially helpful for its photo essay on exemplary American shade gardens, for its state-by-state list of gardens to visit, for its suggested reading list and for its extensive plant, seed and book source listings. *The Natural Shade Garden* may very well be the definitive work in the area of shade gardening, which will become increasingly important as Americans seek to grow plant species in their natural habitats even as these are transformed by development. It should be welcome to gardeners in the cities, suburbs and the country alike. Druse's own beautiful plot near downtown Brooklyn, N . Y . , is featured throughout. (Mar . Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I don't think there is any one perfect gardening book, which is probably why I have 50. I bought this book for a friend who has a very shady yard in the Mid-Atlantic area, so most of these plants work great for her. In Texas where I am, not so much. I wanted great photographs, a wide variety of plants with color and a lot of different ideas on how to landscape a shady yard. I got all this and more and my friend is very happy with the book. We both like this book very much and recommend it highly to gardeners with acid soil and a reasonable amount of rain. North Central Texas where it has been over 100 degrees for a week and the soil is alkaline concrete -- this is not the book for you.

Great book for those of you who are planning a shade garden. I purchased this book used. However, it's totally new.

I was hoping for more information on shaded areas in a warm climates, but still a very nice book with lovely photos.

A beautiful and helpful book

Very helpful

What a beautiful book jammed with pictures that actually make you long for more shady areas. I'm re-doing my whole back yard by replacing the unnatural grass (that doesn't grow there anyway) with the beauty of shade plants. The pictures alone make this a great book for your collection. It gives you tons of ideas for those shady areas that you may have lost hope for.

I've had this book for almost a month and haven't really read much of it. I'm sure I'll learn a lot once I do read it, but I am so inspired by the pictures right now I've read very little text. It's a good book and I don't think you'll be disappointed. Not to mention the price can't be beat! ENJOY!

Enormously useful book. Lots of great cultivation advice and beautiful, inspiring photos.

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