

## BOOK REVIEW

*Landscaping With Vines*, by Frances Howard, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1959, \$6.50

In the field of horticulture proper use of ornamental vines is probably less understood than any other phase. There has long been a need for a work of the type represented in this book. Miss Howard has presented in this volume information encompassing four main ideas:

1. The size of the vine.
2. A complete description of the vine.
3. The climatic, soil and exposure tolerances of the vine.
4. The care of the vine.

Directed primarily to the home gardener each point is portrayed in a very concise and clear manner which can be easily used by anyone having sufficient interest to do so.

The work is profusely illustrated by line drawings and photographs which will serve the home gardeners and professional gardeners equally as well in giving positive identification and good descriptive material. In describing each vine Miss Howard goes into considerable detail giving botanic name, common name, pronunciation, family name, native locale, the major value of the vine, whether it is most useful for its flowers or its foliage, its fragrance, etc.

Very few botanical terms are used, however, the descriptions are remarkably clear. A fine glossary of botanical terms is included along with drawings of leaf outlines and methods of climbing. The descriptive list includes more than 300 vines, many being common, others are uncommon. Some shrubs are listed which are not commonly thought of as being used as vines, which, with proper training will serve the purpose very nicely.

A very brief section covers the care of vines. It comprises less than seven pages, in a book of 230 pages. This is the only factor which may lessen its value to the home gardener.

Designed for use throughout the United States and parts of Canada this work includes a map showing the different temperature zones where vines of certain hardiness may be grown.

In the final pages of the book a table of vines is included which gives the botanic name, height, climbing method, growth form, foliage effect, leaf size, leaf color, flower color, bloom season and fruit classification.

Following the table of vines and their uses is an approximate hardiness list which lists vines for the various zones, as outlined on the map.

An excellent bibliography is included. The book is indexed very well.

Finally it should be said that, "Landscaping With Vines" is a book to be valued not only by the home gardener, to whom the work is dedicated, but also to professional gardeners and

horticulturists who desire a good reference book on vines.

JOHN L. THRELKELD

*The Garden Flowers of China*, by H. L. Li, The Ronald Press Company, New York, 1959, \$6.50.

This informative book is a fascinating introduction to the flowery kingdom and will be read with a new enthusiasm by flower lovers everywhere. Its charming and interesting legends and folklore give some insight into the early trends toward domesticating various plants and flowers cultivated before historical times. The material on more recent plants, however, is substantiated by accurate facts from modern technical works on Chinese horticulture.

Dr. Li discusses with deep Oriental feeling many of the best loved garden flowers of China among which are such favorites as the peony, Japanese apricot, cymbidium orchid, chrysanthemum and lotus. These flowers often appear to have a spiritual or inner meaning and special emphasis is placed on their symbolism which is an important aspect of Oriental art. The peony symbolizes wealth and honor; the Japanese apricot suggests hardiness and nobility of character; the orchid is the symbol of modesty, gentility and longevity; and the lotus is the emblem of purity and truth. Flowers indicate the changing seasons with the orchid for spring, the lotus for summer, the chrysanthemum for autumn and the Japanese apricot for winter. When the famous Greek poetess Sappho christened the rose "Queen of Flowers", little did she dream that the rose had been cherished by the Chinese many centuries before. Other flowers treasured for centuries by the Chinese include the azalea, camellia, magnolia, narcissus, jasmine, day lily, pinks, hollyhocks, crab apples, pomegranate, peach blossom, jade flower, to mention a few by name.

This book combines legendary background, historical data and botanical review. An exhaustive bibliography enhances the value of the book. Most of the beautiful illustrations are copies of Chinese originals as much as 850 years old. From antiquity flowers have had a profound effect on Chinese art and literature.

China is indeed "The Mother of Gardens" and Chinese flowers will forever play a most important part in our gardens and in our lives. We are greatly indebted to China for her bounteous contributions to the floral world. The history of China is a record of her gardens.

This new and delightful story of the plants in Chinese gardens and their association with the Chinese people throughout past history has been placed in the library of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia, California.

BILLIE McCASKILL





Menzies, Arthur L. 1960. "Notes from the Strybing Arboretum: San Francisco, California." *Lasca leaves* 10, 18.

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