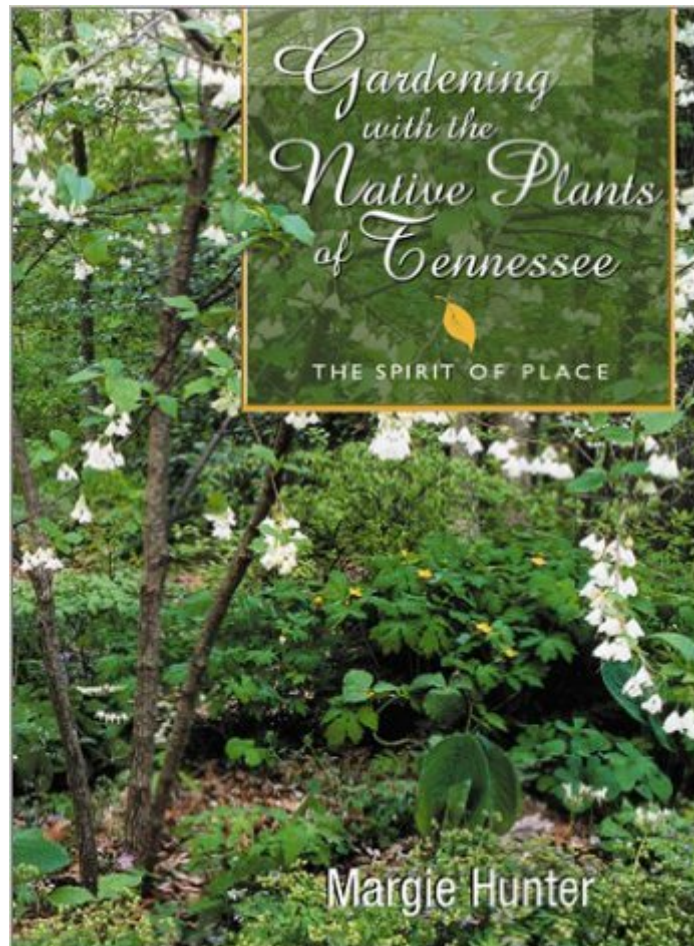


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Gardening With The Native Plants Of Tennessee: The Spirit Of Place



Synopsis

An invaluable resource for the home or commercial gardener who wishes to plant native species. —Edward W. Chester, Austin Peay State University

The natural landscape of Tennessee represents a unique treasure for gardeners and nature lovers. Encompassing several geographically distinctive regions, from the 6,000-foot peaks of the Unaka Mountains to the swampy floodplain of the Mississippi River, the state boasts nearly 3,000 native plant species. This stunning diversity of life owes much to Tennessee's prime location at the crossroads of mountain and prairie ecosystems and in the transition area between northern and southern climate patterns. In *Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee*, Margie Hunter gives gardeners the knowledge they need in order to nurture this natural heritage in their own gardens. Beginning with a survey of the state's ecology—including geology, geography, plant life and animal species—Hunter takes a holistic approach to the process of gardening with native plants. The book's main section provides detailed accounts of 450 species of wildflowers, ferns, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees native to Tennessee and adjacent states. These descriptions, arranged according to plant type, include both scientific and common name, flowering and fruiting times, propagation methods, soil and light requirements, and distribution patterns within the state. Nearly 400 color photographs illustrate the species discussions. No other book designed for the home gardener includes such area-specific information on native species or such a comprehensive listing of plants. Appendixes refer readers to other sources of information and seeds, including mail-order nurseries, botanical gardens, state agencies, native plant organizations, and subject-specific conferences. A detailed bibliography also contributes to the reference value of this book for gardeners, landscapers, and nature lovers throughout Tennessee and in neighboring states.

The Author: Margie Hunter, a long-time volunteer at Cheekwood Botanical Garden, lives in Nashville.

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Customer Reviews

Margie Hunter was moved to write the book *Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place* when she had a difficult time finding an easy, single source of information about her state's native plants. Browsing through the book, you will see that, though it is written from the perspective of a Tennessee native, most of the plants featured are found throughout the Southeast. As Hunter notes in her introduction, "native plants recognize no such boundaries" as state lines. I'll give you a brief tour of Hunter's book, and you will likely find, as I did, that it offers a wide and thorough mix of information that is organized in a logical and sensible manner. You will also see that it differs in some respects from many books in its class, and it is, in essence, a blend of ecology, conservation, and horticulture. I found the first chapter unique for a book on plants. It is entitled "The Geography, Geology, and Soil of Tennessee." Here Hunter gives an overview of the physiographic regions of the state, including their geology, climate, and soils. It makes perfect sense to have such an introduction in a native plant book and makes me wonder why more authors have not thought of this. At the end of this and every chapter, Hunter provides a list of sources for further reading, which is quite useful if you want to continue your studies of a topic. Hunter's second chapter logically follows by describing the plant communities of Tennessee. She begins by explaining that plant communities are the result of the five factors of climate, geologic history, topography, hydrology, and soil type. She also explains the different layers of the forest and the process of succession.

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