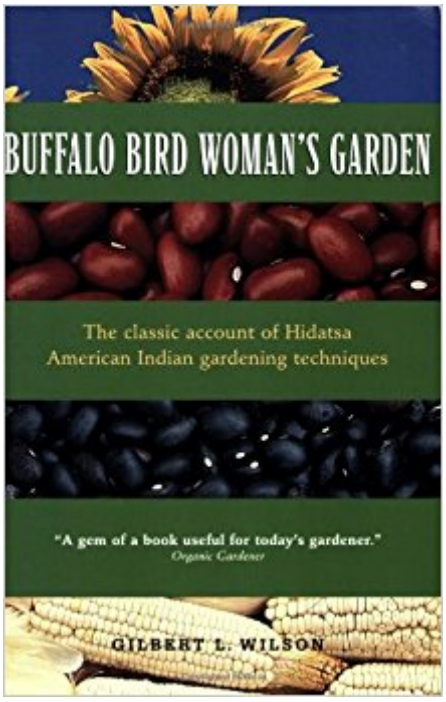
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Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden: Agriculture Of The Hidatsa Indians (Borealis Books)



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Synopsis

Buffalo Bird Woman, a Hidatsa Indian born about 1839, was an expert gardener. Following centuries-old methods, she and the women of her family raised huge crops of corn, squash, beans, and sunflowers on the rich bottomlands of the Missouri River in what is now North Dakota. When she was young, her fields were near Like-a-fishhook, the earth-lodge village that the Hidatsa shared with the Mandan and Arikara. When she grew older, the families of the three tribes moved to individual allotments on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.In Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden, first published in 1917, anthropologist Gilbert L. Wilson transcribed the words of this remarkable woman, whose advice today's gardeners can still follow. She describes a year of activities, from preparing and planting the fields through cultivating, harvesting, and storing foods. She gives recipes for cooking typical Hidatsa dishes. And she tells of the stories, songs, and ceremonies that were essential to a bountiful harvest.A new introduction by anthropologist and ethnobotanist Jeffery R. Hanson describes the Hidatsa people's ecologically sound methods of gardening and Wilson's work with this traditional gardener.Praise for Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden:"A gem of a book useful for today's gardener." Ã¢â ¬â •Organic Gardener"One of the best gardening books around." Ã¢â ¬â •City Pages"Every gardener and agricultural scientist should find gems of practical wisdom in these pages, borne from an age-old tradition when sustainable agricultural practices . . . made the difference in sustaining life. Fascinating!" Ã¢â ¬â •Foster's Botanical & Herb Review"Historical photographs and diagrams of farming techniques, along with actual recipes and Hidatsa vegetable varieties, make this gem of a book useful for today'' gardener." Ã¢â ¬â •Organic Gardening

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Historical photographs and diagrams of farming techniques, along with actual recipes and Hidatsa vegetable varieties make this gem of a book useful for today’s gardener." -- Organic Gardening, July/Aug. 1990

Great book on how the Plains Indians lived... If you want to know true organic gardening, just follow how Buffalo Bird Woman managed her garden. Wonderful advice on living together as a society and division of labor that enabled her tribe to live totally self sufficiently. A look back into the past of a long lost way of life...dj

Buffalo Bird Woman recounts her gardening and harvesting traditions in this wonderful sociological record, as told to Gilbert Wilson. She covers the planting, tending, harvesting and use of corn, squash, beans and tobacco, as practiced by herself and the other members of the Hidatsa Indians around the turn of the century. Garden plans are included, as well as some pictures and sketches of tools. So clear and informative that I was able to copy her growing techniques in my own garden, to great effect. A pleasurable read! Buffalo Bird Woman’s personality shines through in this lovely book.

Interesting book about gardening and life in an Indian community at the turn of the century. In my reading, after the community had been "modernized" in a lot of ways by US government programs, gardening provided an outlet for the community to preserve some of it’s traditions and stay connected to the land and it’s rhythms.In addition, there is good practical advice if you have a bit of land and want to do some pesticide-free gardening. You’d need at least a few good acres to really implement the whole approach - which involves growing sunflowers, corn, squash, and beans alongside each other. But still a good amount of information that should be useful even if you’re working with a smaller backyard plot. Also has some recipes!

Good read about earlier gardening

Very informative

This is one of my favorite books ever. I don’t even know how to review it, I like it so much. Basically it’s the story of pre-white contact Hidatsa agriculture from a Hidatsa woman as told to a fairly enlightened missionary. The missionary worked with her to make very nice schematics of the agricultural methods. Where she doesn’t know things, she just said "I don’t know" and the missionary did the same. It’s very honest and interesting. It’s a priceless piece of Hidatsa culture that should really come in handy to the Three Affiliated Tribes today.

Sound gardening principals, significant historically, and enjoyable to read.

I think every gardener should read this book, as historical reference and to gain a greater appreciation of the effort to feed one’s family without a grocery store. Encouraged me to plant the Three Sisters this year with heirloom seeds. Fascinating glimpse into the not so distant past.

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