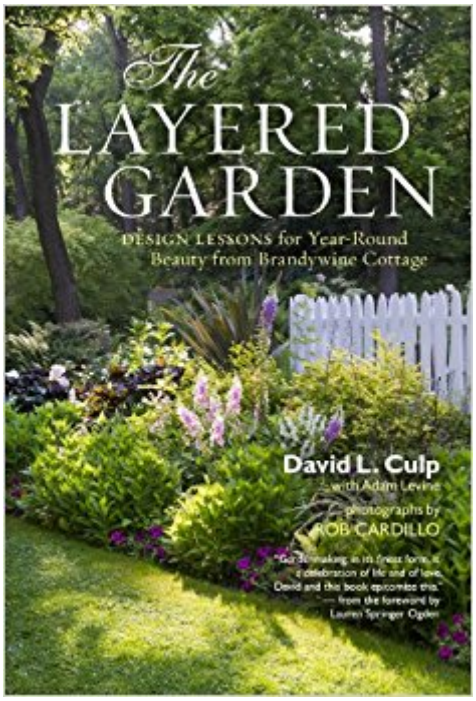
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The Layered Garden: Design Lessons For Year-Round Beauty From Brandywine Cottage



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Gardenmaking, in its finest form, is a celebration of life and of love. David and his book epitomize this.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Lauren Springer Ogden Brandywine Cottage is David Culp's beloved two-acre Pennsylvania garden where he mastered the design technique of layeringÃ¢â ¬â •interplanting many different species in the same area so that as one plant passes its peak, another takes over. The result is a nonstop parade of color that begins with a tapestry of heirloom daffodils and hellebores in spring and ends with a jewel-like blend of Asian wildflowers at the onset of winter.The Layered Garden shows you how to recreate Culp's majestic display. It starts with a basic lesson in layeringÃ¢â ¬â •how to choose the correct plants by understanding how they grow and change throughout the seasons, how to design a layered garden, and how to maintain it. To illustrate how layering works, Culp takes you on a personal tour through each part of his celebrated garden: the woodland garden, the perennial border, the kitchen garden, the shrubbery, and the walled garden. The book culminates with a chapter dedicated to signature plants for all four seasons.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A spartan home sits on a modest piece of property tucked into the suburban sprawl of southeastern Pennsylvania. It is surrounded by an effusive explosion of plants of every shape and hue. Vibrant magenta alliums send their pom-poms skyrocketing over drifts of pale blue forget-me-nots. Hillsides overflow with cascading ferns and hostas, while a vegetable garden banked with perennials

dominates the sunny foreground. Rainbow pots of herbs and annuals carry the eye on a radiant journey of discoveryÃ¢â ¬â •an ancient stone trough here, a gnarled wooden trellis there. So imaginative is CulpÃ¢â ¬â„¢s genius and so resourceful his passion for plants and design that his layered garden offers more sensory delights per square foot than most gardens manage to achieve over acres. In no mere Ã¢â ¬Å“how I did thisÃ¢â ¬Â• memoir, Culp, with help from award-winning garden writer Levine, offers solid advice on design technique and plant selection. Famed garden photographer Rob CardilloÃ¢â ¬â„¢s swoon-inducing inages showcase CulpÃ¢â ¬â„¢s vision for maximizing a gardenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s potential. A stunning chronicle of the way Culp and his garden evolved over the years. --Carol Haggas

Ã¢â ¬Å“So imaginative is CulpÃ¢â ¬â„¢s genius and so resourceful his passion for plants and design that his layered garden offers more sensory delights per square foot than most gardens manage to achieve over acres.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist Ã¢â ¬Å“Spellbinding writing and CardilloÃ¢â ¬â„¢s breathtaking photos entice readers through CulpÃ¢â ¬â„¢s woodland garden. An essential title in the Ã¢â ¬Ëœhow I did itÃ¢â ¬â„¢ genre of garden writing.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Library Journal Ã¢â ¬Å“I love the book. . . . It teaches us how to design and maintain a complex, layered garden.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Garden Rant Ã¢â ¬Å“Offers the perfect blend of inspiration and practical advice. Readers will come away with plenty of ideas and guidance to create their own layered, four-season gardens wherever they live.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •American Gardener Ã¢â ¬Å“This is one for your must read list. . . . and it would make a wonderful gift for anyone who loves plants and gardens.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •A Charlotte Garden Ã¢â ¬Å“Culp shares the beauty of Brandywine and some of his garden-design secrets.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •McClatchy-Tribune News Ã¢â ¬Å“If you are planning to design or redesign a space next spring and summer, this is a wonderful guide to choose.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Northern Gardener Ã¢â ¬Å“A visual feast of inspiration combined with practical advice on how to put together a garden that shines throughout the year. A great winter read.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Detroit News Ã¢â ¬Å“A good choice for people trying to correct their jumbled mess of a landscape.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Harrisburg Patriot-News

What a beautiful book!Full of glorious photos and a lovely story of a delightful gardener and his garden to go with it.The titled made me first buy this American book; as I have always been interested in garden design and how the plants are planted to give a layered effect. The photos by Rob Cardillo, (incidentally he also did the photos for the book on the splendid American garden

Chanticleer), are a joy to see and study how the plants associate with each other.Actually, its a book I find myself referring to a lot over my New Zealand early summer season, nice ideas on every page.A well recommended read for gardeners all over the world. Most likely be the best book of the decade for me. Enjoy.

One of the best garden books I have read in the past twenty years! David Culp’s approach to gardening starts with the soil and ends at the sky... His layered garden concept is an excellent attempt to recreate, in your own landscape, what Mother Nature has done in the every day world around us... maximizing the impact of your gardening and getting the very most out of every inch of your garden: ground level, herbaceous, shrubs, lower story and upper story levels are all presented with an instructive, clear and conversational tone that is easy to grasp and understand.This is filled with excellent advice, suggestions and methodology... but more importantly, it’s a very fun read.

I have looked through every page of this book and I will do so many more times. I have read some of the book so far and it certainly shows how much he cares for the land, flowers, environment and his partner, Michael. David seems like a deeply romantic, caring and kind person and Brandywine Cottage seems like a beautiful and magical place. I was encouraged to see that (sometimes) he is okay with the leaves on the plants being just a little chewed up ...since my garden looks chewed up most of the time. I hope to have a future in the landscape/flower garden world of one sort or another - but I am coming at it kind of late in life.One thing I have noticed in David’s book and most of the beautiful gardens books and magazines I have been devouring -- is the language and how to pronounce or even read some of the botanical plant names that are mentioned in almost every paragraph/page -- without constantly using the search bar on my phone/computer -- to even understand what kind of plant he is talking about. And it kind of takes the joy away from reading the book. (So thank goodness for the beautiful photography)However, I understand that the majority of gardeners do know what he is talking about and appreciate all the botanical names and lingo. Learning the language and classifications are just part of the gardening experience and horticulture journey that I am looking forward to going onÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦.but at this time I still I find myself skipping over the difficult plant names in the book.I find it very helpful in the magazine ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Fine GardeningÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• that they include a breakdown of the plant names and how to pronounce them. I think this would be helpful in more gardening books/magazines.

Here is a big bookful of facts and impressions, engagingly presented. It should find a wide audience

among gardeners, especially those of the passionate varietyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •which seems to include so many of us and certainly includes Mr. Culp.I found the book unsettling at first, though, because the term ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“layered gardenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is mentioned often but never explicitly defined. I Googled ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“layered gardenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and learned that the term refers to the use of a pleasing mix of forms and colors, a mix that may vary considerably throughout the yearÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •the result of choosing plants that bloom and finish up on different schedulesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •but stays effective. And this is indeed a major theme of the book; there is even a long section on plants that perform during each of the four seasons. But why the static-sounding ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“layeredÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •why not the fluid ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“interwovenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• or even ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“shape-shiftingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•? Also, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“layered,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• in a garden, may refer to varying heights of plants, to tiers of plants from ground level to treetops, and in fact Mr. Culp does devote a few pages specifically to that concept. Then I realized, goodness, this is a really good bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •as it probably is for most people right from the startÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •so, forget the perplexing title.Along with discussions of successive waves of plants there is a generous amount of detail about individual plants and their cultural preferences. The plant choices wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t all suit the far north or the subtropics, but I think many would apply to most places. More importantly, I think that anyone who gardens wherever a rotation of seasons takes place will find information here to relate to and learn from.This is a gardening memoir of the best sort, useful and inspiring.

I was hoping for a how-to book. This has lovely pictures of layered gardens but it is beyond the scale of most home gardens I know.

I was excited to get this book based on the title and description, but at the same time, I knew I would look at the pictures for ideas and read some of the specific info on plants. Instead, I read Every Single Word! The photos are beyond beautiful and I have looked at each one repeatedly, but it’s the way the author writes that draws you in. I felt like I was having coffee with him while he told me the story of his garden. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in changing their outdoor space, and/or wants more ideas about plants, as there is plenty of info on that as well! Will always be the standard that I compare other books to!

I bought this book a while ago but it was not until I was stuck on the couch suffering from a summer

cold that I cracked it open. I couldn't put it down. The tone of voice was pitch perfect. Plenty of Latin nomenclature to stretch my knowledge but also fluffy commentary to make you feel like you're walking the path with the writer. Well done.

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