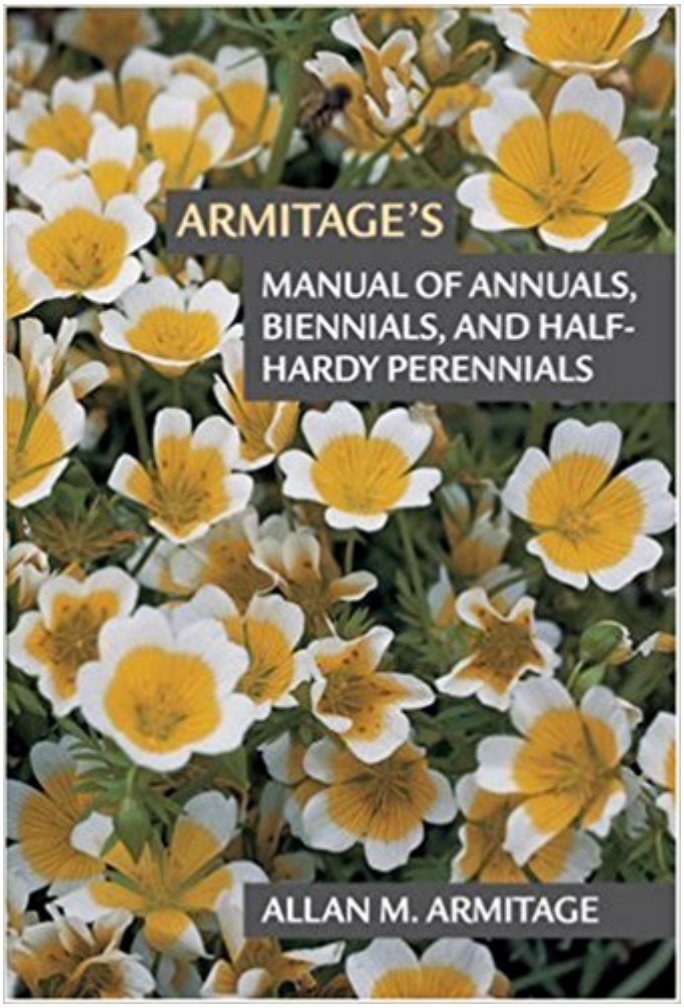
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Armitage's Manual Of Annuals, Biennials And Half-Hardy Perennials



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Synopsis

Annuals are experiencing a resurgence as today’s gardeners demand a wider variety of options. No longer confined to monotone bedding plants, dozens of "unusual" annuals are now available at garden centers in colors and forms far removed from the classic annual bed of pink petunias or red geraniums. In the tradition of his classic Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Allan M. Armitage has compiled descriptions and assessments of 245 genera of true annuals as well as plants that behave like annuals in USDA zones 1-7. Focusing on identifying the plants, successful culture, and their primary garden attributes, Armitage discusses 279 species in detail and summarizes the distinguishing features of hundreds of cultivars, many of which he has tested himself. Classics like begonias and pelargoniums are juxtaposed with newcomers from Australia, and all are subject to Armitage’s critical eye. Color photos and line drawings illustrate the text, and he suggests additional reading in books, articles, and Web sites for many of the covered genera. Armitage bases his descriptions on extensive personal experience. His frank and conversational style keeps potentially dry details fresh, and each entry is liberally sprinkled with strong and sometimes amusing opinions. Useful lists in the appendix are further evidence of his expertise, as he compiles biennials, half-hardy perennials, winter annuals, shade-tolerant plants, fragrant plants, climbing plants, and everlastings. These lists extend the volume’s application beyond a necessary tool for horticulturists and nurserymen to a practical guide for the dedicated home gardener.

Book Information

Hardcover: 604 pages
Publisher: Timber Press, Incorporated (September 1, 2001)
Language: English
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Product Dimensions: 9 x 1.9 x 6 inches
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Customer Reviews

Regardless of whether one lives in the deep South or in an area of frigid winters, there is much to learn from the learned Armitage’s latest effort: a wonderfully written resource chockablock with gardening information. Color photos and charming line drawings illustrate an encyclopedic compilation focusing on true annuals, along with a wealth of exciting garden specimens that will grow year-round in mild regions. In a format encompassing 245 genera as well as countless species and cultivated varieties, Armitage colors each chatty and enlightening entry with personal experience. Fragrant rosemary, architecturally striking castor oil plants, and angel’s trumpet are found here alongside familiar summer bedding plants like begonias, impatiens, marigolds, and cockscombs. Detailed plant descriptions, pronunciations, suggestions for additional readings, and indexes of both botanical and common names are featured. Moreover, an endearing approach that goes against any form of "plant snobbery" ensures accessible guidance for all. REVWRCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

Excellent throughout, this guide is a rich book for every plant lover. -- Diane M. Calabrese, American Reference Books Annual 2001Finally, there is a definitive reference for annuals. -- Joel Lerner, The Washington Post, December 8, 2001Gardeners have long needed a comprehensive and affordable encyclopedic reference to plants of brief longevity, and now we have it. -- Rand B. Lee, The American Gardener 2001I finally have the reference I have been wanting and could not find. It has arrived [title]. -- Linda Askey, Garden Design, May 2002Invaluable. . . . It’s compendious, learned and chatty all at once, encyclopedic in coverage of these important plants. -- Verlyn Klinkenborg, New York Times Book Review, December 2, 2001[Gardeners] will need no other reference on the subject. -- Steve Silk, Fine Gardening, June 2002

Unfortunately the book is incomplete. Chapter 8, pages 225 to 256 are missing! I will be returning the book ASAP. Otherwise the content is invaluable for the backyard gardener as well as the professional landscaper. Allan Armitage has an incredible working knowledge of perennial and annual plants.

Not really what I thought it would be and the information I’m sure is useful to others but not as much to me. This was required at one time as a text book for horticulture so I’m glad it no longer is, an expense I would have found useless.

Excellent source of information and very readable

Bought this for my son for one of his classes he seems to enjoy using it.

was what i needed

This is great book to ref back and forth in. Wish that it was in paperback instead of a hardback, making it eaiser to ref with other books, but still a must in a gardeners collection

My son used this book for his class Herbaceous Landscapes at University of Delaware. He is so turned on by the information in this book. There are great reference pictures and even though the class has ended, he refers to the book quite often. Found it to be very useful!

Excellent book in so many ways, but not every entry indicated what the plant type was--annual, biennial, or half-hardy perennial. Consequently, it was not as useful to me in doing a presentation on annuals!

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