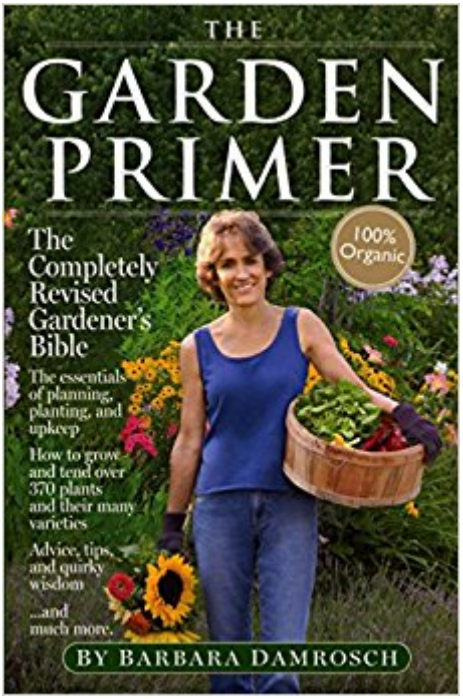
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The Garden Primer: Second Edition



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Synopsis

The most comprehensive, entertaining, down-to-earth one-volume gardening reference ever, and highly praised: "Barbara Damrosch delivers the goods."Ã¢â ¬â •Chicago Tribune "Best of the crop."Ã¢â ¬â •House Beautiful "Barbara Damrosch's writing has the snap of a good snowpea and the spice of an old rose."Ã¢â ¬â •The Seattle Times/Post Intelligencer "Covers just about everything you could think of and then some." Ã¢â ¬â • The Atlanta Journal-Constitution "An extraordinarily comprehensive guide." Ã¢â ¬â • The San Francisco Examiner-Chronicle "Takes your soaring visions of garden splendor and plants them firmly in the ground."Ã¢â ¬â •The Toronto Star Now the beloved classic is revised front-to-back. The new edition has gone 100% organic, which in Barbara Damrosch's hands also means completely accessible. It reflects the latest research on plants, soils, tools, and techniques. There is updated and expanded information on planning a garden, recommended plants, and best tools. Ecological issues are addressed much more extensively, covering lawn alternatives, the benefits of native species, wildlife-friendly gardens, and how to avoid harmful invasive species. More attention is paid to plants appropriate to the South, Southwest, and West Coast, while cold-climate gardeners are given detailed advice on how to extend the growing season. Simply put, the book is a richer and fuller compendium than ever before, with more text, more illustrations and garden plans, expanded plant lists, and gardener's resources. But Barbara Damrosch's core of practical, creative ideas and friendly style remainÃ¢â ¬â •she is still an "old-fashioned dirt gardener" at heart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. This comprehensive compendium of gardening facts, helpful hints and earthy advice is an unusually readable, user-friendly gardening encyclopedia. The book’s first section covers the basics of what a gardener needs to get started: principles of landscape design, What Plants Need, gardening gear and how to buy plants. Damrosch, who aims to answer as many questions about gardening as possible, gives more than the standard instructions for making compost and buying pruning tools; she includes details like parts of plants and a comprehensive guide to botanical names that give beginning gardeners an unusually sophisticated and scientific footing. Her intimate, up-to-date, down-to-earth writing is distinctly rooted in the garden, with humor born of experience: A garden hose is like a lover that you can’t live with and can’t live without. No scientific advance, to my knowledge, has yet tamed its willful nature. With sections on annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, fruits, bulbs, lawns, trees and even houseplants, to name a few, and with specifics for individual plants in each section, this book will be a useful addition to the collections of seasoned gardeners as well as novices. (Apr.) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Remarkably complete, this is the one: the indispensable one-volume reference guide to gardening simply, beautifully and well. It is jam-packed with useful information, old-fashioned common sense, and a lifetime’s worth of experience, and is thoroughly revised and expanded to be 100 percent organic in its recommendations. Updated with the latest on plants, soils, techniques, and tools, it includes: The basics of landscaping, emphasizing sustainable methods. Understanding what plants need and avoiding complex rules and formulas. How to choose and combine flowers for season-long color, orchestrating with perennials and accenting with annuals. Extending the season - that’s right, harvest carrots in January. The secret to raising roses without fuss, less demanding lawns, vines with discipline, and trees that will enhance your property. There is new information on native species, and all the gardening resources you needÃ¢â ¬â •explained in a voice that "has the snap of a good snowpea and the spice of an old rose"

This is easily one of the best gardening books ever written. I first received it as a gift and now have given as a gift many times.The book is exactly what is claims to be: a primer on gardening. Yes, there are most definitive and exhaustive books on most of the topics covered, but you simply won’t find a better introduction to gardening and such a quick reference to so many gardens issues, plants and ideas. If I had to own just one gardening book, this would be it.Barbara Damrosch is an

excellent writer, her research is accurate and the book is written in a friendly, warm voice that will make you feel like an old friend in a matter of minutes. The pencil illustrations in the book are beautifully done and there are tons of them.I buy tons of gardening books each summer at used book sales, and I end up giving most of them back the next year. This is the keeper.

UPDATE: BUY THE HARDCOVER VERSION OF THIS BOOK! It is simply too large to be bound in softcover. I bought the softcover version about 3 months ago and after only moderate use, many pages have fallen right out.I bought this book to teach me what the heck to do with the 400+ plant gardens I inherited when I bought my current home. I had little experience with plants, and even less with gardening out of containers. This book has been very valuable and helpful to me, and I refer to it often. I have several (okay, tons) of similar "all-purpose"/encyclopedic gardening books, but this is the one I refer to the most. It cuts through all the superfluous information and tells me just what I need to know, instead of completely overwhelming me. It also has a very handy section on plants (annuals, perennials, veggies, fruits, shrubs, vines, etc.) that are easier to grow than most, with care instructions, idiosyncrasies, varieties to try, etc.

Barbara Damrosch presents a Garden that is chock full of many activities. She shows you how to grow your vegetables,how to edge your plot properly, and how to amend your soil. Every step of the way, she is with you.She is a very knowledgeable and succinct writer.The part I go back to all the time is the brief, perhaps 2 page, description of any plant you can imagine. With a matching, hand drawn illustration of the bush, the vine, the veggie, the fruit tree, it’s all included. I especially like her description of the various ways to prune raspberries. There are 2 types of raspberries, did you know that? I did not. One bears once a year and heavy, the other is an everbearer. The pruning takes into account the different life habits of the two. Most clever. Something I am bound to forget. That’s why I keep my copy of the Garden Primer on hand, to review and learn what I need do next in the Garden.

This has been my gardening go-to book for decades. Barbara is an engaging writer, and makes you feel as if she is a friend working in the garden with you. Her book is packed with wise and practical advice. If I had to choose one gardening book (and I’ve read dozens if not hundreds), this would be my pick!

I have this book just inside the door I go through to and from my garden. It is easy to quickly look up and find the particular information I need. She keeps everything very simple and I love that she uses

organic methods. It is very comprehensive. I had originally checked this book out from the library, thinking I may get a couple pointers from it. I obviously decided this was a keeper and purchased my own copy!

If you get only one gardening book, get this one. Amazing broad and thorough coverage for such a compact book and the black-and-white hand-drawn illustrations are better than color photographs. Great coverage of the basics for a beginning gardener,and a great review and overview for the more advanced one. I am a professional plant grower and teach community and college courses in gardening and horticulture and use this book regularly as a core reference. Even though I have a personal library of hundreds of gardening and plant books, this is the first one I would grab to save from a fire..

Very disappointed with the second edition. There is not much new info from previous edition. Do not waste your money if you already have the first edition.

Highly recommended read. A little slow, but worth the effort. The references alone are worth the price of the book.

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