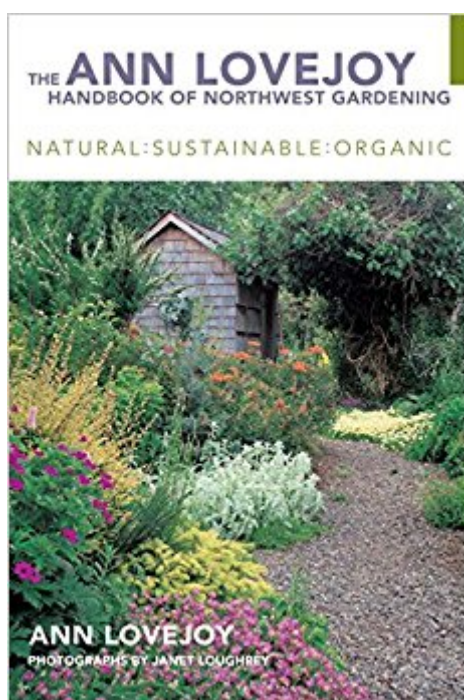


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The Ann Lovejoy Handbook Of Northwest Gardening, Revised Edition: Natural : Sustainable : Organic



Synopsis

The organic gardening movement has been long established among vegetable growers. With the mainstreaming of ideas about environmental and ecological preservation, the organic movement has come to ornamental gardening. And one of the primary spokespeople for that movement is Sasquatch's longtime author Ann Lovejoy. This new book is a complete handbook for ornamental gardening follows the principles and techniques of organic and sustainable gardening. Gardening naturally does mean going without products like Roundup, Weed and Feed, and chemical fertilizers. It also means that gardeners may opt for a selection of native plants that are compatible with local climate and soils. Some of the paradigm shift has to do with getting over the notion that one's garden needs to be as spotless and tidy as something on a magazine cover. Gardening is all about process, and the methods that Ann Lovejoy explains in this book emphasize good soil preparation, composting, drainage, mulching, and right plant selection. This comprehensive book covers the steps from landscaping and designs to soil preparation to planting beds. She covers all of the elements of the garden: ground covers, lawns, shrubs, bulbs, trees—all with an eye to building a sustainable garden that grows without chemical fertilizers and pest control. You can try to make an Arizona backyard look like a Connecticut estate, but it's going to take a lot of work, constant maintenance, more water than all the other gardens on your block, and a fat checkbook. There's a simpler, more gratifying way to garden that is also good for people, pets, and wildlife. This practical book tells gardeners how to achieve that.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reviews from original edition: "If youÃ¢ââve always dreamed of composing a beautiful landscape with layers of plant materials then this thick handbook will provide more than just streams of information, it is also a fountain of inspiration." —The Seattl

Ann Lovejoy is a weekly garden columnist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the author of 18 books. She lives on Bainbridge Island, WA. Photographer Janet Loughrey lives in Portland, OR.

I usually do not buy what I call "How To" books as I can skim what I want in the book store. I purchased this book as a skim read too, hoping only to get some good info for my PNW area. Once I started the book though, I couldn't put it down. It was a great read and full on information. There was no dryness or boredom at all. Ann is great at entertaining you while educating you and keeping you interested. One of those teachers that makes you enjoy the class. I would recommend having your highlighter ready. I did highlight certain things I came across that I wanted to be able to flip to easy. I definitely recommend this book to any gardener beginner and already educated. It is full of good information on how to make your garden grow and work for you.

Very helpful guide to Northwest gardening.

I always look forward to a new gardening book from Ann Lovejoy and this one did not disappoint. Beautifully illustrated with Janet Loughrey's color photographs, this book is full of practical ideas for creating a Northwest garden that is both beautiful and easy to care for. The writer's mantra "Natural, sustainable, organic" pervades the whole book - fourteen densely packed chapters covering topics from "Sustainable Garden Design" to selecting different types of plants. In the chapter on garden design she outlines what she considers to be the ten issues of good garden design. They are good, basic common sense, but so easy to ignore or forget. In just a couple of pages the writer addresses them briefly but vividly, then goes on to suggest how you might start your garden planning from an assessment of your garden's assets and liabilities. One of Ann Lovejoy's strengths is her knowledge of and commitment to all aspects of sustainable natural gardening. She presents this thoroughly without being wordy (quite a trick in itself) and points out that natural gardening - working with

nature - is far easier and more satisfying than trying to control nature. In the chapters on plant selection the reader is guided in the choice of trees, shrubs, perennials etc that are not just pretty, or fashionable this year, but that will really work well in a specific place in your garden. Careful plant choices mean a minimum of stress for the plant and a minimum of effort for the gardener. This writer's particular talent is her ability to combine practicality with vision. Her books, while primarily written for the gardener in the Pacific Northwest, contain much that is of value to gardeners elsewhere.

Ann Lovejoy advises in her book to add a thick layer of compost to the soil every year, because Northwest soil isn't very fertile. That's because the winter rains compact the soil and wash away a lot of nutrients. She also includes other useful tips, like transforming a meadow into a lawn simply by mowing, using a flame weeder to clean up gravel areas and the cracks between the driveway and the retaining wall, and many other pieces of advice for Northwestern gardeners who want low-maintenance gardens that make sense in our climate and don't depend on toxic chemicals. She has a common-sense approach to plant selection (by far a gardener's biggest challenge, in my opinion). Choose plants that suit the site and will mature to the size you want. Don't commit to a plant that will need continual pruning, because you'll be a slave to this chore. The book is full of other pieces of advice along the same lines, and it avoids being redundant or weak. This book was on my wish list for a long time, and I would thumb through it at bookstores and community events where gardening organizations had ragged copies on display as examples of good local resources. My husband surprised me by ordering a copy, and I can't put it down.

I love all of Ann Lovejoy's books for her straight forward style of writing and gardening and the photography is always wonderful too. I checked this book out several times (after long waiting lists) from the library and finally decided i didn't want to share it anymore! If you live in our amazing Pac.N.W. and love to garden, this is the only book you really need.

As a garden writer who has studied landscape design, I am awed by the depth of knowledge and expertise Ann Lovejoy shares in this book. It is accessible to gardeners of any level. It's too heavy to bring with me to the nursery when I shop, but I have copied lists from it!

I've read several general gardening books, and this one is by far the best. I love it for all the same reasons as the other reviewer (Valerie Adolph) gave. Every gardener should read and own this

book.

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