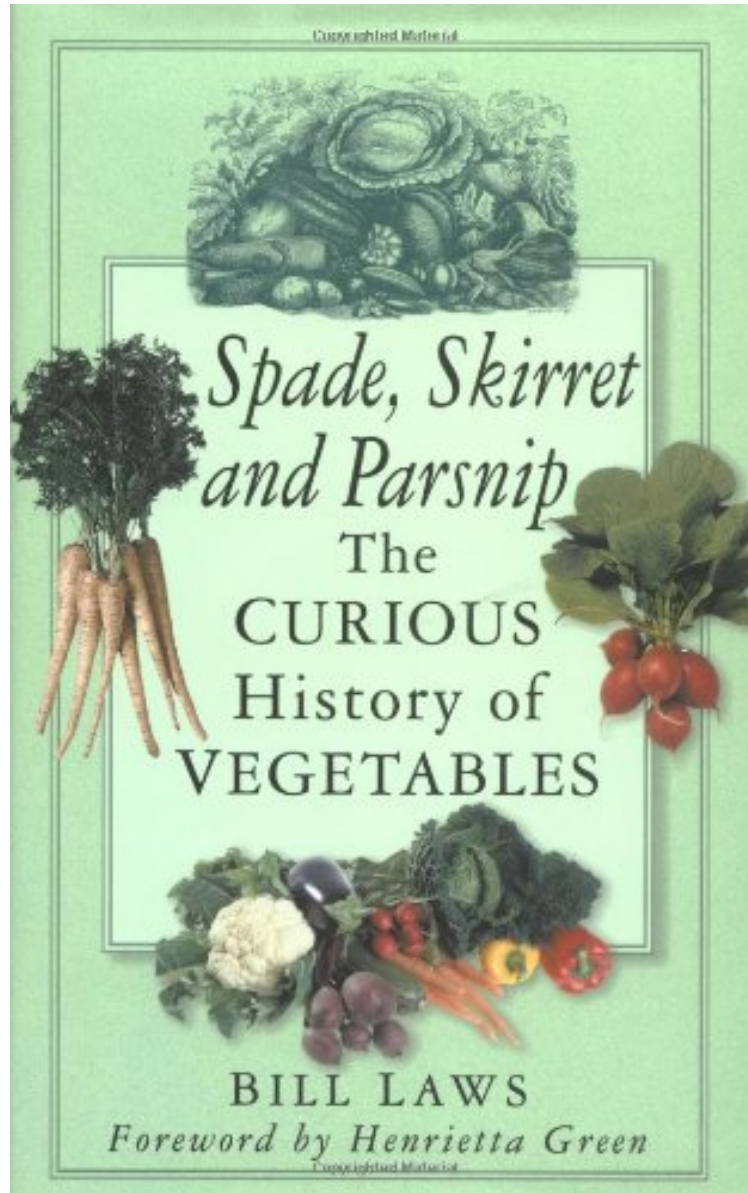


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Spade, Skirret and Parsnip: The Curious History of Vegetables

Bill Laws

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Bill Laws : Spade, Skirret and Parsnip: The Curious History of Vegetables before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spade, Skirret and Parsnip: The Curious History of Vegetables:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fine companion not only for gardening By Bibliophilia Good and concise information which is also fun to read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Leslie

JonesI bought this on a whim for a friend whose father always raises parsnips. An interesting read.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Much more than Vegetables!By Helen QuinnThis is a wonderful book for everyone who loves vegetables, history, and folklore. It will entertain you for hours, and provide a great source of information for "did you know that?" situations! The book is hard to put down, but easy to go back to.

Vegetables may be associated with dull monotony, but, as Bill Laws reveals in this illustrated book, the humble vegetable has had a far from mundane history. There are garlic inscriptions on Egyptian pyramids; peas, leeks, lettuces and beans are among the oldest vegetables in the world; while maize, cultivated in Mexico 2,500 years ago, is a relative newcomer. Potatoes were venerated by the ancient Peruvians yet caused division between Catholics and Protestants in the mid-1700s. Suspicious of this 'devil vegetable', which had to be buried like a corpse before it would grow, the Protestants even brought the fight to politics - in 1765 their slogan was 'No potatoes. No Popery.' Victorian critic John Ruskin believed growing vegetables would better your position in society and improve your table manners. President Woodrow Wilson saw it as a cure for the 'extravagant and wasteful' ways of his people.From guinea gardens to genetic modification, from aphrodisiacs to allotments, from poets to pop stars, and from tales of the market trade to the wicked secrets of the vegetable show, Bill Laws here unearths the curious, intriguing and entertaining story of the vegetable. It will appeal to everyone with a taste for gardening or food history.

About the AuthorBill Laws has written seven books on garden history, his last title, Artist's Gardens (Ward Lock 1999) has sold 20.000 in the UK. His Perfect Country Cottage (Conran Octopus 1993,)He writes for the Telegraph Sainsbury's Magazine, Period House and its Garden. Formerly a professional gardener, he manages an organic garden on the Welsh Borders.