

[Download] The adventurous gardener

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Christopher LLOYD

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Christopher LLOYD : The adventurous gardener before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The adventurous gardener:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. For reading pleasure, not how to.By BalsamfirI picked this book up used somewhere about 5 years ago, with much less gardening experience. I remembered it as a good read; amusing and opinionated. It gave me ideas about things to try, and reduced my fears. I picked it up this summer and reread it, and loved it even more as I've gained gardening perspective. Christopher Lloyd knew an enormous amount about horticulture and gardening; he was also very honest about his plant losses as well as his plant loves. The same goes for his opinions of people, which rival Beverly Nichols for humor. He was an unusually creative gardener, and his ideas have had increasing influence over the past 20 years or so. The book was written in a time when gardeners were not expected to be shopping at Lowes for flats of identical plants, and were expected to have enough imagination to envision plants without lots of photographs. It is, as other reviewers mention, about gardening in Britain, and some of the plant information is not relevant to the US. However I've learned much from this book, finding his stories a spur to trying new ideas, renovating or planning a new garden, and general experimentation the book is my favorite.15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Essential reading for all serious gardenersBy David W. PittelliThe Adventurous Gardener provides a brilliant gardener's take on any number of practical, as well as aesthetic, judgments. The first 11 chapters concern maintenance and propagation, such as "Unusual Ways with Rose Cuttings," "Maintaining Mature Hedging," and "Some Reactions to Cutting Back" (which covers the results of radical pruning on

scores of genres of shrubs and trees). The next 8 chapters cover trees and shrubs, Lloyd's experience and opinions of hundreds of species and cultivars, and the best ways, culturally and aesthetically, to use them in the garden. The rest of the book covers a variety of herbaceous plants, design concepts, the theories of Gertrude Jekyll, "Planning a Border," you name it. Of course, the book, at 250 pages, is not comprehensive. For that matter, Lloyd's "The Well-Tempered Garden" is in a sense basically the same book, except that there is very little overlap. Each is a series of essays which stands on its own. (Similarly, the estate of the late Henry Mitchell has 3 such books out, made up of his newspaper gardening columns; but Mitchell's columns are shorter, more about literary style than detail, and his 3 books overlap each other considerably.) This book's greatest weakness: it only has 18 low-resolution black white photos. These are in the book's center, and do little to illustrate the text. So in order to follow many of the chapters, which concern specific varieties of, say, crabapple trees, or concern combinations of plants, you will have to have the "A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants" or a similar reference at hand. That said, this keeps the book small and dirt cheap. I suppose I could, for lack of hundreds of glossy color photos, rate the book less than the perfect 5 stars, but I can't see criticizing a book for not being what it is not, especially when it is so good at being what it is. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An excellent, informative read. By baffledQLike other Christopher Lloyd books, *The Adventurous Gardener* is a pleasure to read for any gardener. He has any number of tips for making cuttings, pruning shrubs and trees, foundation planting, color combinations and other subjects fascinating to gardeners. This book is directed to those who garden for pleasure--and both experienced and novice gardeners will learn something from it. Negatives: He writes for the British climate which is milder than most of the USA, so gardeners here must take that into account. A good plant guide will help a great deal, to look up plants he mentions (the black and white illustrations aren't particularly useful) and to see whether they'll grow in your area. He also has an enormous yard, seemingly unlimited time, large greenhouses of his own, and people who help him garden. Nonetheless, this is a wonderful book I've gotten lots of ideas from--and it's always fun to read again. I can't give it less than give stars; as the previous reviewer said, I can't judge it for not being something it wasn't intended to be. I will judge it by Lloyd's intentions, great ideas and techniques, and the joy I had in reading it.

In this gardening classic the forever adventurous Christopher Lloyd takes us on a tour through the garden, stopping to lecture here, to exhort there, to overturn the old and accepted when his experience prompts him. He ponders, suggests, explains, ruminates, always delighting the reader with the sharpness of his observations and the eloquence of his prose. For Christopher Lloyd gardening is nothing if not fun, and he makes it equally enjoyable for his readers.

*Few writers have lived and worked with plants more intimately, and few gardeners have created more lovely effects ...' Lanning Roper, *The Times* From the Back Cover The best gardening is experimental as well as ephemeral, Christopher Lloyd writes. Among the great joys of gardening, as this book demonstrates, are changing one's mind, striking out in new directions, and trying something new. In short, Lloyd encourages all gardeners to be adventurous and offers ways to make new and exciting such familiar chores as weeding, taking cuttings, reseeding, and pruning roots and branches. Both the neophyte and the experienced gardener will benefit from Lloyd's advice and inspiration. (6 X 9, 256 pages, bw photos, diagrams)