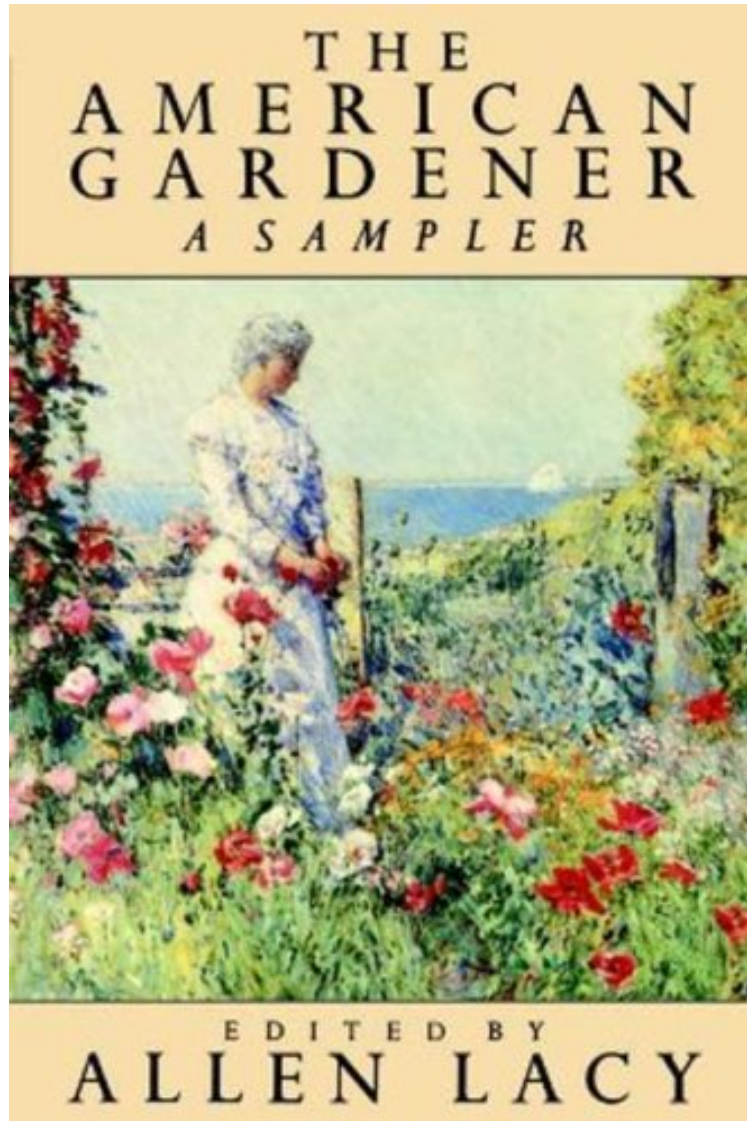


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The American Gardener: A Sampler

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From Farrar, Straus and Giroux : The American Gardener: A Sampler before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Gardener: A Sampler:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Read this first...By Dianne Foster You walk into the (online) bookstore, head to the gardening section and see 10,000 titles. Where do you begin? Well, if you want to plant tomatoes this weekend, better ask the plant seller, but if you want to know more about the experiences of your fellow travelers start with this book. Dr. Lacey has compiled an anthology of all sorts of articles and essays by many gardeners. You

can get a little taste of every perspective from Thomas Jefferson to Henry Mitchell (both pretty good garden writers). We have Anne Raver who writes for the New York Times, Celia Thaxter who became famous because an impressionist painted her garden, Katherine White who wrote for the New Yorker Magazine, Thalassa Cruso who saved my houseplants when I was a young wife with begonia fever, Miss Elizabeth Lawrence who wrote for the Charlotte Observer and many others. Enjoy this wonderful book before bed.

Allen Lacy has gathered together a colorful sampler of American gardening writing from Thomas Jefferson to our own day. Among the fifty-two writers represented are such national treasures as Celia Thaxter, Neltje Blanchan, Elizabeth Lawrence, and Katherine S. White.

From Library Journal Lacy chose pieces from contemporary garden writers such as Bostonian Thalassa Cruso and Atlanta Constitution columnist Celestine Sibley, and mixed them with the giants among garden writers such as Louise Beebe Wilder and Helena Rutherford Ely. He arranged selections from about 50 writers by themes: color, fragrance, native plants, plant names, pests, lawns, and the urge to garden. Charles Dudley Warner's "The Love of Dirt" (1870) nicely summarizes why readers will spend time with this book. Marranca chose highlights from writers who greatly enjoyed writing but who also made other contributions with their lives. She includes selections from Henry David Thoreau, Joseph Wood Krutch, and Edith Wharton, among others. Beginning with the 17th century and coming into the 20th century, her anthology provides insights into the feelings and rationale that American gardeners have for their interest in plants. Together, these two titles provide selections of garden writing to inspire those who garden for fun. Readers will discover joys of gardening beyond their initial appreciation of beauty. Librarians beware you may need to go after some of the original sources on interlibrary loan. Or if you're lucky enough to own some of the originals, dust off the covers and share some gardening delights and wisdom with your current gardening clientele. Dale Luchsinger, Athens Area Technical Inst. Lib., Ga. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Allen Lacy is professor of philosophy at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and the author of numerous books on gardening, including *The Garden in Autumn* and *The Glory of Roses*. He lives in Linwood, New Jersey.