

GARDEN SPOT

Garden books share history, advice



MARTY FIGLEY

"A CD-ROM Garden Problem Solver" (Sunset, \$39.95) is available for Macintosh or Windows, including Windows 95.

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"The American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Gardening," edited by Christopher Brickell and Elvin McDonald (Dorling Kindersley, \$69.95), contains two sections.

The first, "Creating the Garden," deals with design and planning, soils,

pruning, routine care, etc., major plant groups such as trees, shrubs, perennials and some of the most popular perennials. It also includes information about indoor gardens and specific plants such as climbers. The second section gives specific advice about different zonal regions and siting and covers such subjects as tools and structures. Pests and diseases are illustrated in color for quick identification and control. The book contains much good gardening information. Take a look at this next time you're in a bookstore.

"All My Edens: A Gardener's Memoir," Pat Welsh (Chronicle Books, \$24.95), relates personal experiences of the author and introduces us to her family, people she has met and places, near and far, she has visited through the years. Welsh shares her successes as well as her failures in a humorous way and gives good sound gardening advice along the way, from ornamentals and vegetables to beneficial insects. Written in a narrative style, with personal photographs included, it's a book you won't want to put down.

"Hardy Perennials," Graham Rice (Timber Press, \$27.95), is about not only classic plants, but some of the more unusual ones or those that are being revisited by gardeners.

"I seek to emphasize ... the extraordinary diversity (of plants)," he writes.

Rice highlights many of his favorite perennials, and it is comforting to note that he has included some American native plants as well as varieties of American origin. The book is divided seasonally with emphasis on what the plant is doing and what we should be doing for it. His detailed descriptions are interspersed with personal advice. He writes as though you were taking a stroll through his gardens. Wonderful photos.

"The Muses of Gwinn," Robin Karson (Sagepress/Abrams, \$39.95), is for those interested in design and history. Gwinn, originally the home of Cleveland industrialist and philanthropist William Gwinn Mather, on the shores of Lake Erie, contains formal gardens, lawns, fountains and garden pavilions.

Gwinn was designed by Warren Manning, Charles Platt and Ellen Biddle Shipman.

It took more than 20 years to develop all the intricacies of this large estate garden. The three had different approaches to design, and, in the end, it all worked. Karson, through correspondence, plant lists and photographs, has brought to life the design principles of 1895-1939, both formal and informal, that these three land-

scape architects used.

It would be worth a trip to Cleveland to see this estate, reportedly one of the best preserved of the Country Place Era in America. It is available to non-profit organizations as a small conference center. The book launches Abrams' series on American landscape history.

Four books in the American Garden Guides series (Pantheon-Random House, \$26 each) have just been published.

Written by experts in their fields at particular gardens, societies and arboretums, they are: "Water Gardening," Denver Botanic Garden; "Trees," Chicago Botanic Garden and the Holden Arboretum; "Oriental Gardening," the Japanese Garden Society of Oregon; and "Tropical Gardening," Fairchild Tropical Garden.

A consultant in each major region contributed information. Each follows a similar format, with an introduction and overview of the subject, a large encyclopedic section and true-to-life photographs. All material about each plant is in the same place in the books. The practical sections about care, propagation, specific growing conditions and the like make these books a must-have for your garden library.

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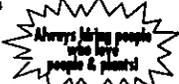
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