



## garden spot

# Books offer landscape beauty aids



MARTY FIGLEY

Books to suit many gardening subjects are reviewed today; perhaps one or more will help as you beautify your landscape.

You will surely find several plants suitable for your garden from the book "Ferns for

American Gardens: The Definitive Guide to Selecting and Growing More than 500 Kinds of Hardy Ferns," John Mickel (Macmillan, \$22.50, paper).

Mickel, curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Garden since 1968, explains how easily these plants can be grown, contrary to popular opinion.

All are profiled with information about size, color and ease of cultivation; a list of sources and societies is thoughtfully included. I enjoyed the chapter

about fern structure (and the line drawings) that immediately shows the many varieties available.

Timber Press has reprinted, with an update of plant names, "My Garden in Spring," E.A. Bowles (\$24.95), first published in 1914.

This charming account of spring in Bowles' English garden at Myddleton House relates his successes and failures, his poetic thoughts and ideas about other gardens and gardeners.

Bowles collected a great variety of plants and placed them in the best position in his garden rather than where he may have preferred them to be.

Chapters cover crocuses, daffodils and snowdrops (some of his specialties), as well as foliage, winds, his "lunatic asylum" of contorted and unusual plants and garden design. The foreword by Parker Bowles, his great-great-nephew, adds insight to the man.

"Tender Roses for Tough Climates," Douglas Green (Chapters, \$19.95 paper,

\$34.95 cloth), reveals his successful rose growing techniques.

Although the photographs are beautiful, the meat of the book is the excellent text about just what to do with all variety of roses. The how-to illustrations are invaluable as well and the chapter about pest and disease control is suitable for many plants.

Green's rose secret? In the north, plant roses with the bud union six inches below the ground, which provides insulation to protect the plants from cold winter weather. Excellent advice.

"Planting Noah's Garden: Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology," Sara Stein (Houghton Mifflin, \$35), is a follow-up to her widely acclaimed "Noah's Garden."

In this new volume Stein shares success stories of gardeners across the United States who have followed her lead to a more natural landscape that has resulted in the proliferation of more wildlife and healthier gardens.

"My (job) is to provide you with the means to choose ... species appropriate to your circumstances, native to your region, commercially available, likely to succeed ..." she writes.

In the second half of the book Stein tells how she planted her own garden, including plans, plants, seed saving and planting, weed control, making the garden attractive for wildlife, and how to manage what you have created. Line drawings are excellent.

"Kalmia: Mountain Laurel and Related Species," Richard Jaynes (Timber Press, \$34.95), is in its third edition.

Jaynes shares his experiences with botanists and home gardeners as he searches for the native plants.

Learn where to use these plants in the landscape, their history and growth habits. Seven Kalmia species and more than 80 cultivated varieties have been profiled with instructions on how to

Please see Figley, page 4

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