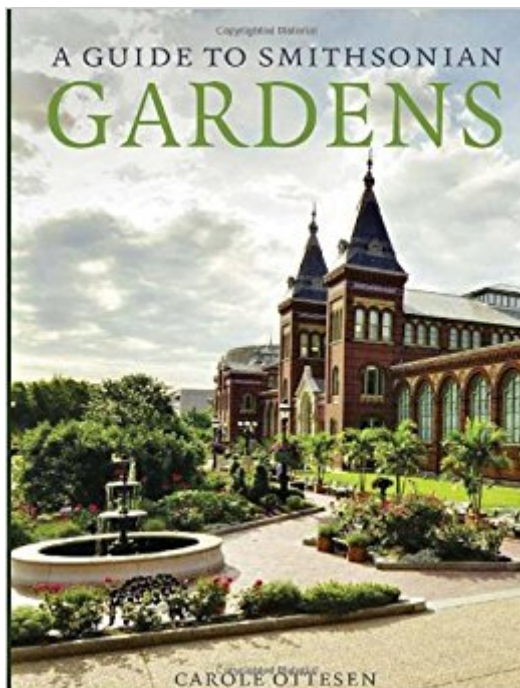


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# A Guide To Smithsonian Gardens



## Synopsis

A beautifully illustrated guide to the colorful gardens that surround the Smithsonian museums along the National Mall, each unique in its design, plant materials, and purpose. Many visitors are surprised to learn that the Smithsonian Institution includes extensive gardens and landscape areas. All have been designed to complement the museums they border and to enhance the overall museum experience. Imagine having the Smithsonian's resources and knowledge to solve the problems that confront every gardener: holding four-season interest, experimenting with exotic plants, designing a garden that reflects the architecture around it, creating a contemplative space, recreating historic or themed gardens, and much more. The Smithsonian Gardens are wide ranging: gardens that reflect distinct cultural influences; a rose garden; an intimate, four-season wonder filled with a vast selection of plants; an ever-changing backdrop and contemplative haven for viewing large-scale works of art; an eco-sensitive Native American habitat considered an extension of the building; an urban space dedicated to butterfly gardening; historical gardens that reflect the classic American flower garden and the Victory gardens of World War II; a classical oasis that invites reflection and contemplation; a historic courtyard turned all-season favorite with architectural pinache; the greenhouses that support these gardens and the museums with orchid displays, seasonal interest, and plant materials; and a garden collection that includes both furniture displayed in garden settings and extensive collections documenting historic and contemporary American gardens.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Smithsonian Books; 1st edition (March 8, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1588343006

ISBN-13: 978-1588343000

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.6 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,020,490 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Region > Middle Atlantic #706 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Gardening #738 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Landscape

## Customer Reviews

"A Guide to Smithsonian Gardens is an excellent addition to the gardener's library and a valuable tool if visiting Washington D. C. It is highly recommended for gardener or traveler." — Dave's Garden "Part gardening book, part history lesson, part museum souvenir, A Guide to the Smithsonian Gardens has something to offer almost everyone." — Garden of Possibilities "This guide to the Smithsonian gardens is a well-designed and thorough tour through each of the sections and the history behind them. With photos of the majestic art, sculpture and buildings, as well as the innovative and interesting plant displays, this is a book that is as much fun to casually flip through as it is to read." — North Coast Gardening "Tourists to D.C. typically see the Smithsonian museums, but how about the 28+ acres of maintained gardens around them? — Most would be surprised to learn there's that much hort action going on right there on the National Mall. — But straight from Smithsonian Books, the new Guide to Smithsonian Gardens by Carole Ottesen will, I hope, direct more visitors to these local treasures." — Garden Rant "Amateur and professional garden enthusiasts can enjoy this book. It provides unique plant combinations and a range of design ideas to inspire the masses. The stories will keep you reading, while the illustrations provide ideas for your next garden project." — HortScience "The gardens around the Smithsonian suite of museums feature almost every type of historical setting, from a roof top garden to classical courtyard, to roses, butterfly garden, and a native landscape complete with woods and wetlands. This indispensable guidebook, filled with rich photographs, will help you navigate around the Mall and its gardens." — Chicago Botanic Garden "With beautiful photography and wonderful descriptions of each (garden), it is enough to make the reader yearn to spend a few days in Washington, DC in order to visit them all. The gardens vary greatly — and being able to go to one city in order to see so many different types of landscapes in a short period of time adds to the appeal. From the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden to the Heirloom and Victory Gardens, there is something to inspire every designer." — Eco Landscaping

Carole Ottesen is a garden writer, photographer, and designer whose writing and photos have appeared in many magazines, including House Beautiful, Horticulture, Garden Design, Fine Gardening, and Martha Stewart Living. She lives in Potomac, MD.

This guide to the Smithsonian gardens is a well-designed and thorough tour through each of the sections and the history behind them. With photos of the majestic art, sculpture and buildings, as well as the innovative and interesting plant displays, this is a book that is as much fun to casually flip

through as it is to read. Don't let the photos distract you from the text, however. Stories about the historical people behind each of the garden areas, as well as explanations about the plantings and aims of each garden section make it possible to recreate some of the well-planned garden themes yourself. Whether you've fallen in love with the rose gardens and want to plant some of the lovely varieties in your own garden, or whether you're taken with the idea of a victory garden or a native and butterfly garden, they give tips for gardening successfully within these themes. If you have visited the Smithsonian gardens and want to recreate the tour at home, show friends highlights from the trip, or simply learn more about what you saw and learned, this full-color paperback gift book is a perfect commemoration of your memories. I've never visited myself, but I enjoyed the virtual tour through these historical and varied gardens and marked quite a few pages which held inspiring ideas to use in the landscapes I design as a professional landscaper.

In the first publication highlighting the Smithsonian gardens, Carole Ottensen provides a poignant exploration of the horticultural collections along the National Mall in Washington, DC. Ottensen's insightful descriptions of the gardens constitute a well-rounded, readable analysis of the landscape surrounding some of our nation's most storied museums. In this book, the beautiful horticultural displays and collections prove to be as splendid as the materials indoors. *A Guide to Smithsonian Gardens* combines a reverence for history and horticulture. It traces the Gardens' evolution from the beginning in 1835, when British Scientist James Smithson left his state to the "people of the United States" to create an institution "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge" (p. 13). The historical narrative continues throughout the book and provides a sense of purpose and direction to the writings. Ottensen praises the key personalities and plant specimens characterizing the Gardens with equal enthusiasm. For example, one can learn about how the Hirshorn Museum came into existence while admiring striking color images of *Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula' at the Sculpture Garden. These vignettes carry throughout the book and combine nicely with the gorgeous images of the gardens throughout the year. The book is organized by site, with each chapter illuminating a different garden along the Mall. The structure and size of the publication makes it perfect to carry with you on your next trip to DC while venturing between gardens. It conveniently includes a map of the Mall in the front and back sleeve to help you along your way. Furthermore, at \$14.95, this book is a great deal for the level of detail included in the 160 pages. The chapters include inset information describing everything from integrated pest management practices at the Katherine Dulin Folger Rose Garden, to the lifecycle of a monarch butterfly at the Butterfly Habitat Garden. Other chapters review a zoo display, native American landscape, French-inspired royal parterre, and a victory

garden, to name a few. Both amateur and professional garden enthusiasts can enjoy this book. It provides unique plant combinations and a range of design ideas to inspire the masses. The stories will keep you reading, while the illustrations provide ideas for your next garden project.

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