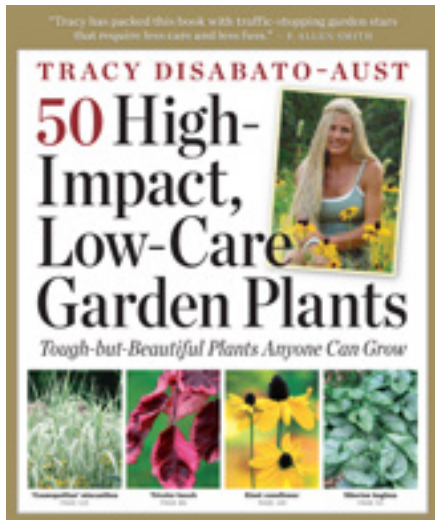


Book Reviews

A selection of book reviews courtesy of the *Weekend Gardener* magazine

50 High-Impact, Low-Care Garden Plants Tough-but-beautiful plants anyone can grow

Tracy DiSabato-Aust
Published by Timber Press
\$NZ47.50



One of America's best-known garden writers, Tracy puts together a collection of 50 showstoppers including some of the toughest plants that anyone can grow. Perfect for gardeners with hectic lives, these ornamental plants offer long-lasting bloom, plenty of texture, and also are cold-hardy and drought-resistant.

Quick notes are excellent providing what you need to know on hardiness, height and spread, sun and shade needs, and what the plant combines well with.

An excellent publication to find the no-fuss stars.

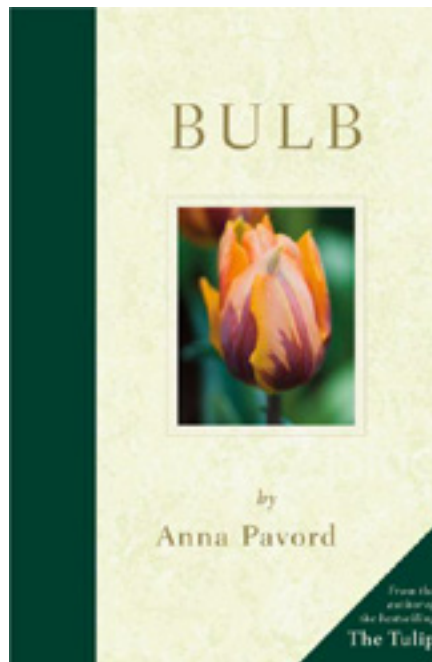
Weekend Gardener, Issue 279, 2009, Page 32 and Issue 282, 2010, Page 27

Bulb

Anna Pavord
Published by Hachette NZ
\$NZ70.00

This new, big hardback volume of more than 500 pages, *Bulb* has been applauded by leading gardeners around the world.

Variouly described as essential reading for bulb lovers, the pages of *Bulb* are passionately written by a person truly in love with her subject.



She writes: "As a gardener, I appreciate the way bulbs mark the seasons: aconites giving way to crocus, crocus to daffodils, daffodils to alliums, then lilies, stately galtonias, and a final fantastic flourish of eucomis and nerines. Bulbs are not just a spring thing."

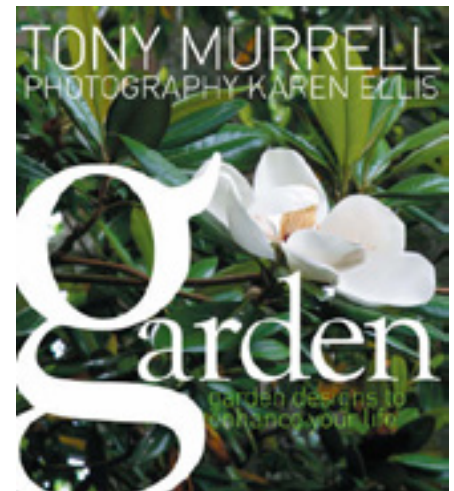
Well written, beautifully illustrated and highly practical.

Weekend Gardener, Issue 281, 2009, Page 30

Garden

Garden designs to enhance your life

Tony Murrell
Photos by Karen Ellis
Published by Penguin
\$NZ45.00
Reviewed by Mark Rayner



Although the title may give the impression that this is simply another book containing step-by-step garden designs with planting plans to replicate in your own garden, it's actually much more than that.

Partly autobiographical and partly instructional, this practical book by Tony Murrell (lavishly illustrated throughout with sumptuous photos by Karen Ellis) walks us through 12 different styles of garden, all actually designed and constructed by Murrell at various points in his 15-year career as a garden designer.

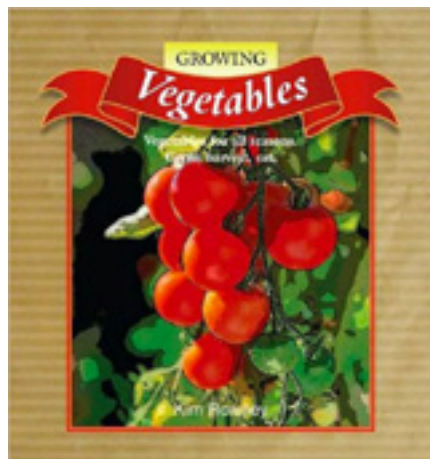
Whether it's a garden with a 'taste of Provence' that you're after or more of a 'contemporary classic', there's plenty of advice on offer with other chapters dedicated to creating a hidden oasis or even just renovating a tired outdoor space.

Murrell is generous with his expertise, offering diverse nuggets of advice throughout the book including his top native and exotic plants for New Zealand gardens and handy hints on maintenance and selecting garden furniture.

Weekend Gardener, Issue 281, 2009, Page 30

Growing Vegetables
Vegetables for all seasons.
Grow, harvest, eat

Kim Rowney
Published by Murdoch Books
\$NZ24.99



Growing Herbs
Herbs for all seasons.
Grow, harvest, use

Judyth McLeod and Lynn Lewis
Published by Murdoch Books
\$NZ24.99



These two sister publications of about 256 pages each, cover the spectrum with the motto: Plant your garden space, cultivate, propagate, maintain, harvest, cook.

Growing Vegetables includes design, cultivating, propagating, maintenance, harvesting and a comprehensive directory.

Growing Herbs has chapters on cultivating, propagating, harvesting and storing, companion planting and herb garden design.

It covers the range of herbs: medicinal, culinary, cosmetic, scented and herbs for the household.

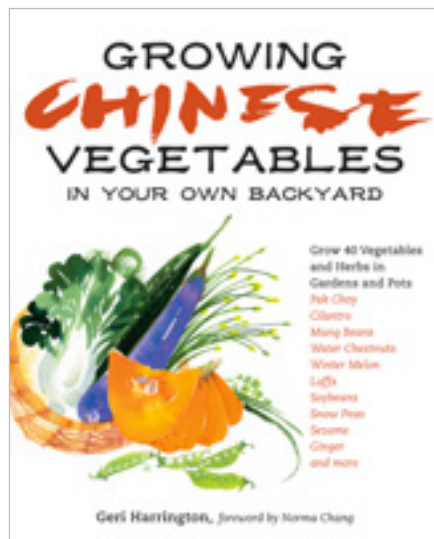
Both books are indexed.

Great value from the United Kingdom.

Weekend Gardener, Issue 282, 2010, Page 27

Growing Chinese Vegetables
in Your Own Backyard

Geri Harrington
Foreword by Norma Chang
Published by Storey Publishing
Distributed by Bookreps NZ
\$NZ45.00



If you have ever been baffled by the names of Chinese vegetables, this is the book for you.

Forty vegetables and herbs are described in detail. The aliases and common names are listed along with sketches and photographs for easy identification.

Clear growing instructions are given for each group of vegetables along with lists of culinary uses and some recipes.

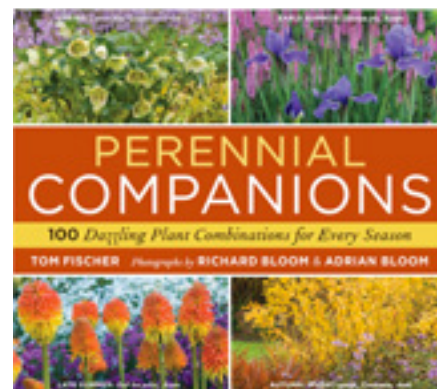
Many Chinese vegetables have been bred for compact growth which means they are ideal candidates for container gardening. Specific requirements for growing each vegetable in containers are given along with excellent general instructions for container gardening.

This book is written for the American market with imperial measurements and US hardiness zones but is easily adapted to New Zealand conditions. It is a fascinating look at a range of vegetables from the fairly well known pak choy to the more exotic which you may not have considered as part of the culinary garden like day-lilies, sesame, ginger, lotus and water chestnuts.

Weekend Gardener, Issue 282, 2010, Page 27

Perennial Companions
100 dazzling plant combinations
for every season

Tom Fischer
Photographs by Richard
and Adrian Bloom
Published by Timber Press
\$NZ42.50



Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned expert, you'll find an abundance of inspiration in the 100 combinations featured in this book.

Each grouping is an actual garden scene that combines two, three or more perennials in colourful tableaux that span the garden year, from earliest spring to the onset of winter.

All 100 entries identify each of the main plants by both common and botanical names, specify the care and conditions they require, and indicate when the combination reaches its peak of beauty.

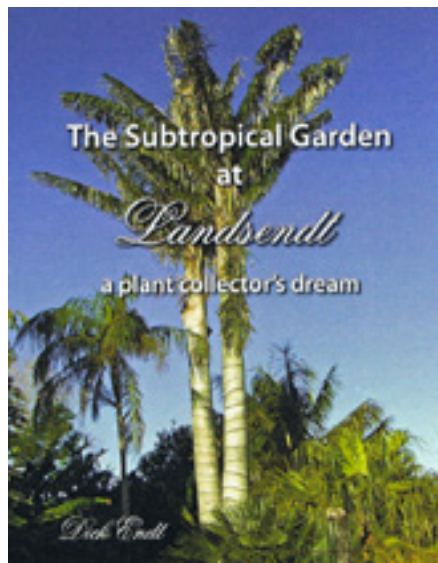
Weekend Gardener, Issue 282, 2010, Page 27

The Subtropical Garden at Landsendt

A plant collector's dream

Dick Endt

Published by Landsendt Publications
\$NZ55.00



One of the more interesting of the many New Zealand 'garden' books published this year, this publication tells the story of the fabulous West Auckland subtropical garden, Landsendt and its owners' journey along the way.

Landsendt at Oratia in the foothills of the Waitakere Ranges, is now a botanical institution. It is one of the most interesting and beautifully presented 'gardens' of subtropicals in the country and is truly a romantic spot with many couples choosing the exotic venue as a place to get married.

Today the mature Landsendt is full of rare and beautiful plants and palms and whether a gardener or not, a visit is a truly uplifting experience.

Dick Endt presents a highly readable story of the making of Landsendt and the adventures that his family have had along the way; their challenges in horticulture, introducing 'new' plants, and tales of their intrepid plant collecting expeditions to South America.

A limpback, indexed book of 139 pages with scores of inspiring colour pictures, *The Subtropical Garden at Landsendt* will appeal to gardeners with a love of exotics and subtropicals, and also to plant collectors and adventurers.

It will certainly inspire a visit to Landsendt, now a Garden of National Significance with the NZ Gardens Trust, where Dick and his wife Annemarie live in retirement – and daughter Carolyn and her husband Anthony Melling manage the business – for those who have not been and a revisit for those who have.

A highly recommended read for both people in the trade and gardeners with a special love of subtropicals needing local inspiration through Dick Endt's achievements.

Weekend Gardener, Issue 286, 2010, Page 27

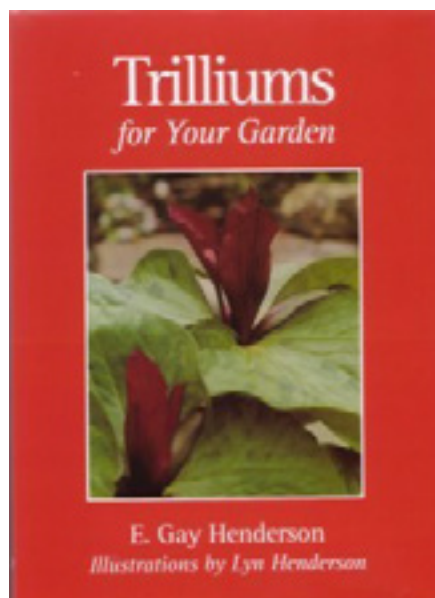
Trilliums for your Garden

E. Gay Henderson

Published by Hazard Press

\$NZ50.00

Reviewed by Pamela McGeorge



Trilliums are one of those plants that have a habit of snaring collectors. Start growing a few and it won't be long before obsession sets in.

Gay Henderson is one of those who have fallen under their spell. For more than 40 years she has grown, cherished, propagated and sold a wide variety of trilliums. Her book, *Trilliums for your garden* is a distillation of all that she has learned about these relatively shy woodland plants.

Most of the book is devoted to the species. Well illustrated, each plant – plus its variations – is given a separate page with a clear description including a gauge defining its size. A small section deals with hybrids and there are separate sections dealing with soil and conditions, growing from seed, propagation by division and diseases – of which there are very few.

Don't expect to find ideas for inspired plantings of trilliums but if you want to learn about the individual plants, then this is the book for you.

Weekend Gardener, Issue 292, 2010, Page 25

Book review archive

Our entire archive of book reviews (from the *Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture* 1981, under its various names), together with book reviews from the *Weekend Gardener* magazine (from Issue 86, November 2001) are available on our website at www.nzih.org.nz.