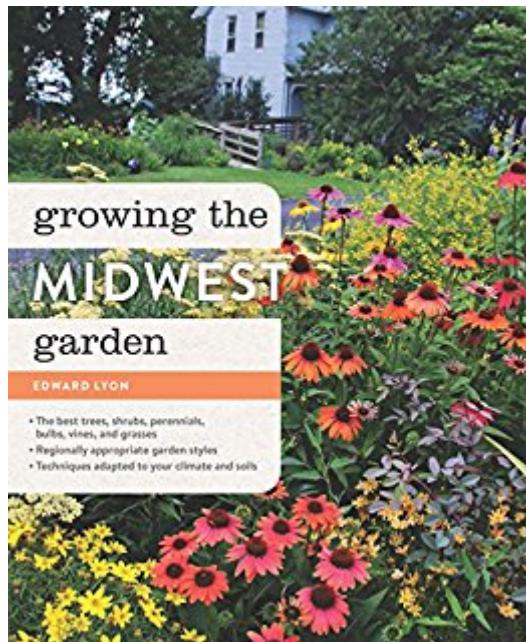


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# Growing The Midwest Garden: Regional Ornamental Gardening (Regional Ornamental Gardening Series)



## **Synopsis**

Plant selection and garden style are deeply influenced by where we are gardening. To successfully grow a range of beautiful ornamental plants, every gardener has to know the specifics of the region's climate, soil, and geography. *Growing the Midwest Garden*, by Edward Lyon, the director of Wisconsin's Allen Centennial Gardens, offers an enthusiastic and comprehensive approach to ornamental gardening in the heartland. This guide features in-depth chapters on climate, soil, pests, and maintenance, along with plant profiles of the best perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs, and bulbs.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

There are several great gardening books out there (Armitage, DiSabato-Aust) but this is the book I have been waiting for. I have wanted a garden book covering plants (perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs) that I can actually find in a local nursery as well as likely have success in growing in my hardiness zone. Lyon covers 12 states and 3 Canadian provinces broken down into 5 Midwest

regions that provide the reader with maximum chances of finding the right plant for "my" site. Lyon's illustrations of over 200 plants are marvelous. His writing style is conversational, witty -- I felt like he was sitting beside me discussing plants, soil, diseases, etc. His advice is based on his personal gardening experiences as well as being the director of several major Midwest public gardens. He is candid about the pros and cons of his selections but leaves the reader with good cultivar choices should you want to try, for example, a Bearded Iris - a plant I have come to dislike in my garden and Lyon's narrative hits the problems on the head. I wish I could have had his critical perspective over the years - would have saved me time, money, and frustrations over my poor decisions as well as often reinforcing the good choices I have made. Lyon wants his reader to have successful and enjoyable garden experiences. I look forward to trying out my newly found Midwest garden knowledge.

As a certified Master Gardener for years in Wisconsin I have grown very selective about the gardening books thatl now collect for my library. I was very pleased with Mr. Lyon's practical, straight forward approach on how to improveexisting gardens and especially for ways to improve the soil quality in these established gardens. I will be adding a thick layer of compost on all my gardens this Fall and a thick layer of organic mulch this each Spring.

Extremely helpful book. We are converting a large patch of grass lawn back into prairie. This book gave us good ideas for drought-resistant, perennials.

I expected this book to be a good resource for planning your garden landscape. It opens with a good general section about the particulars of the Midwest environment, and the challenges this area holds for some cultivars. For most plants, the solution would be protect them from drying Winter winds and extreme temperature swings during budding, use a lot of organics in the soil, have good drainage, and be cognizant of the lighting, water, pH, and space requirements. The majority of the book consists of a few paragraphs and a picture or two for each general species. If only the book were double in length and larger in format. . .Good for: Getting an initial idea of what plants to investigate for your garden.Poor for: Getting many details specific to each species or differentiating between cultivars. Knowing enough to plan where each would go.Level: Home gardeners with very limited experience beyond knowing what a USDA zone is. If you have practical experience with any of these plants, the book will not help you much. Think of this as a survey course, "Midwest Landscape Plants 100." There are only 3 entries for woody evergreen shrubs, but many for

perennials and annuals. The information for trees (example, "flowering crabapple" ) or some plants, like "shrub roses" would only be useful for someone who never lived in the Midwest and had never seen either. If you want to investigate the different kinds of Magnolia or Maple trees, little information is here. Many of the pictures are so small that all details are lost. No obvious errors were seen in the hour or two I took to overview this book. Definitely worth the discount price, though.

Ed writes as well as he speaks. That's saying a lot. The book addresses all kinds of questions and answers things I didn't know to ask. I have bought several now, for me and as gifts.

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