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# How Our Garden Grows



## Synopsis

Throughout 392 pages, *How Our Garden Grows* describes over 1200 perennials, most of them hardy or otherwise adaptable. They are arranged in alphabetized format. Species and cultivar descriptions follow thorough genus descriptions. An alphabetized list of common names is included for reference. Included are cultural requirements, season of bloom, flower color, exceptional qualities and awards, and the year it might have first been planted in Perennial Passion's 7000 square foot demonstration garden. The author's personal reflections punctuate and enhance the reading and educational experience. The newest introductions are included, and there are many examples of why some cultivars or selections within a genus are better than others. The 35 pages of essays include geographical and personal observations of the beautiful state of South Dakota, reverence for soil, an explanation of soil pH, how to plant a tree on a compacted site, and candid views on the terrible effects of soil compaction and the stripping away of top soil by many of today's builders. Fifteen pages of short subjects called "Tidbits and Leftovers" briefly address thirty other garden related topics from butterfly gardening, to earthworms, to soil amendments, to xeriscaping. Line drawings are by Linda Shields and cover design is by Nathan Holman, both Sioux Falls artists.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Chapter, "Soil Sense", a must read for everyone involved with construction, offers solutions to preserving primary components of glorious gardens. -- Linda Pashby, Sioux Falls, South Dakota gardener, May 1 2000"Gardeners and other Earth Mothers, like Connelly, will fall in love with this

book." -- Mitchell, South Dakota Daily Republic, 2001 "This is the best kind of garden book...one aimed at a local audience and born of a personal passion." -- Marcia Tatroe, garden writer, Denver, CO, February 1, 2001 "With personal experiences on every page, this is the first reference I turn to when considering perennials for my garden." -- Kris Egger, Sioux Falls, South Dakota gardener, October 1, 2000

If words were easy to arrange, then maybe I could interpret the mystery of the garden and the magic of growing things. Furthermore, I could explain how it could ever be that tiny seeds, miraculous sunlight, carbon dioxide and a bit of supporting soil can together explode into magnificent, diverse, dynamic pieces of chlorophyll, not to mention their colorful, compelling, blousy and sexy reproductive parts! But for me and most of you out there, this inspiration of plants, the love mixture that we cannot live without, is really beyond our grasp, a bona fide mind-twister. I think the ultimate miracle is that our shared bemusement brings us together in a spiritual-like connection, regardless of our religious beliefs. Be it the Holy Spirit, the Great Spirit, Pan, leprechauns or magic pollen, something big has gotten to us with which we single-mindedly unite. Mary Ellen Connelly

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