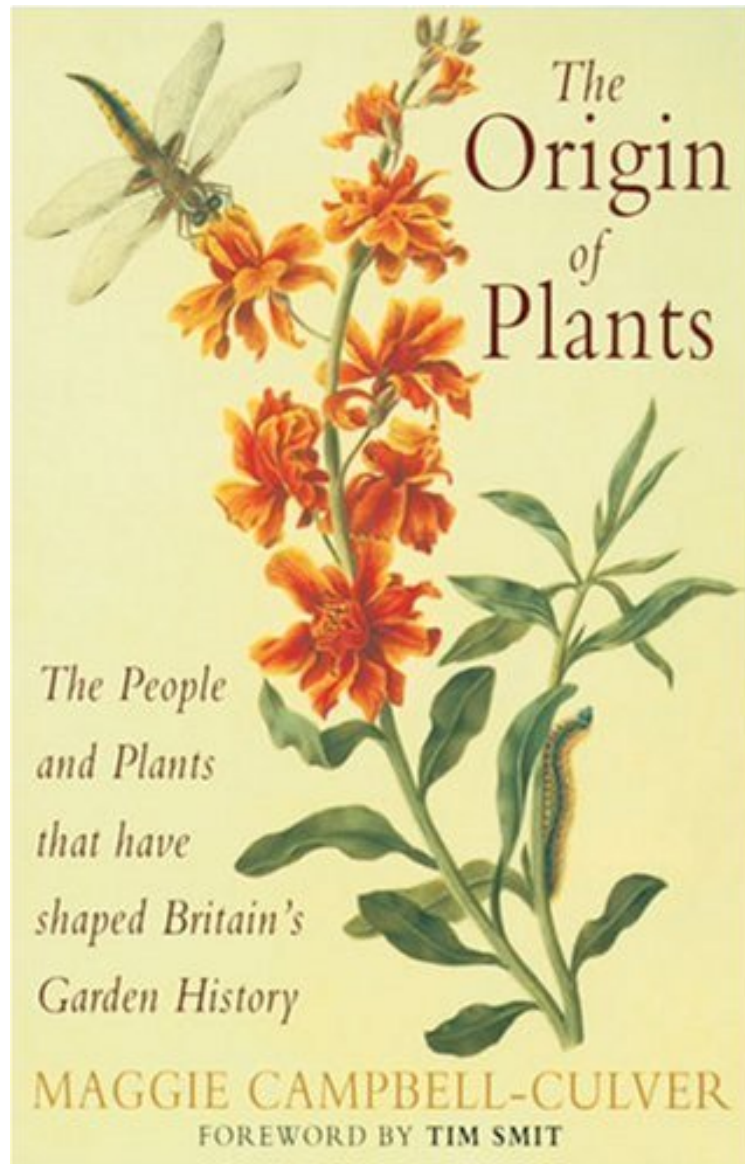


# The Origin of Plants: The People and Plants That Have Shaped Britain's Garden History

*Maggie Campbell-Culver*

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**Maggie Campbell-Culver : The Origin of Plants: The People and Plants That Have Shaped Britain's Garden History** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Origin of Plants: The People and Plants That Have Shaped Britain's Garden History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy UN-Happythankyou2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. First rate history of plantsBy Valerie Fletcher AdolphThis is an extensively researched and well-written book that investigates how garden plants arrived in England. The writer, a respected garden historian and fellow of the Linnean Society, has chosen to divide her material into centuries. She sets the scene with a look at Roman and Anglo-Saxon approaches to gardening and plants, then gets into more detail about plant immigrants, starting with the first century of the second millennium. To put the reader more clearly in the picture the writer starts each chapter (century) with a list of significant dates so we can see how historical events influenced the arrival of plants. In the twelfth century, for example, plant introductions were influenced by the Crusades as plants were brought to Britain from the eastern Mediterranean region. But this is not just a book about plants; it's also about the people associated with them. Sir Thomas More, for example, who in his book *Utopia* envisaged a town where everyone had a garden around their home. New plants are still arriving in England from around the world. A "living fossil" tree was discovered in Australia in 1994. Its Latin name is *Wollemia nobilis* (it was found by David Noble) and it is known as the Dinosaur pine. Plants have been arriving from every continent for centuries and shared back and forth especially to Europe and the US. Just as many new plants went from the New World to brighten English gardens, so seeds and plants were taken to North America by English settlers to create gardens in their new homeland. If you enjoy reading about the background and history of plants, who found them and how they came to us, you will enjoy this book. It has a very decent bibliography and deserves a place in every plantsman's (and woman's) library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-written, informative, entertainingBy yours trulyA wonderful reading for a plant lover. Provides a nice glimpse into British history as well. A fortunate combination of Natural and Social history in one book.

A thousand years ago, there were only a few hundred plants indigenous to the British Isles. Over the past millennium, however, countless seeds, bulbs, and cuttings have been brought into Britain deliberately or unwittingly by travelers, warriors, explorers, and plant hunters who introduced what are now considered common plants: rhododendrons from the Far East, gladioli from Africa, exotics like the monkey puzzle tree from Chile. Europe and the Near East, Russia and North America, South America and South Africa, India, Japan, and China all yielded a dazzling bounty that has immeasurably enriched Britain's flora. Maggie Campbell-Culver has researched the provenance and often strange histories of many of these thousands of species, as well as the intriguing stories of the people behind them. Laden with paintings and photographs, this is a splendid record of Britain's botanical heritage.

From Booklist When the Ice Age ended, Britain's landscape contained a dearth of plants. Contemplating the panoply of flora gracing British gardens today, Campbell-Culver proceeds to retrace the origins of countless ornamental and edible plants attributable to a Roman heritage, and examines comprehensively the movement of plants from foreign shores. With A.D. 1000 as a starting point, Campbell-Culver culls material from across the centuries to the present, melding fact-filled narrative with fascinating legends and lively lore associated with carrots and cardoons, periwinkle flowers and sweetly-scented pinks. Important dates in history provide a context to open each chapter, while a listing of plant introductions brings each to a close. In doing so, Campbell-Culver reveals the traditional uses of plants among commoners and kings, and recounts the myriad ways plants were conveyed from distant lands. Antique prints and paintings, colorful photographs, and botanical illustrations enrich tales of individuals who wrote about, studied, and went hunting far and wide in the name of plants. A beautifully produced book that will have readers reflecting upon the bounteous nature of plants. Alice Joyce Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A beautifully produced book that will have readers reflecting upon the bounteous nature of plants. -- Booklist Save room on the shelf for *The Origin of Plants*. -- The New York Times Book From the Publisher A thousand years ago, there were only a few hundred plants indigenous to the British Isles. Over the past millennium, however, countless seeds, bulbs, and cuttings have been brought into Britain deliberately or unwittingly by travelers, warriors, explorers, and plant hunters who introduced what are now considered common plants: rhododendrons from the Far East, gladioli from Africa, exotics like the monkey puzzle tree from Chile. Europe and the Near East, Russia and North America, South America and South Africa, India, Japan, and China all yielded a dazzling bounty that has immeasurably enriched Britain's flora. Maggie Campbell-Culver has researched the provenance and often strange histories of many of these thousands of species, as well as the intriguing stories of the people behind them. Laden with paintings and photographs, this is a splendid record of Britain's botanical heritage.