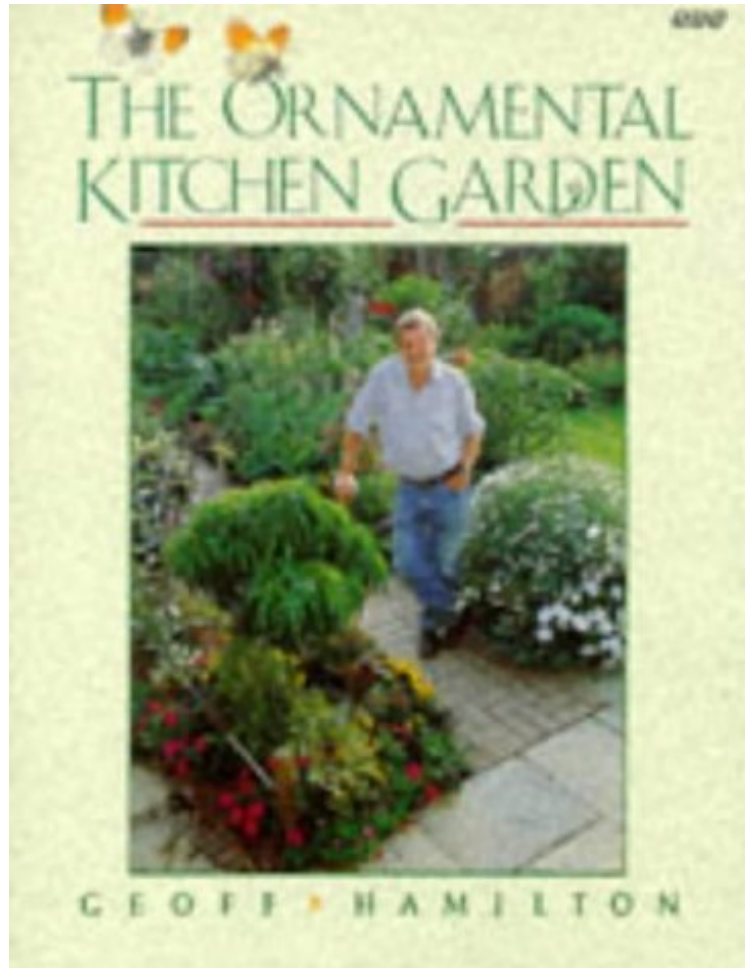


The Ornamental Kitchen Garden

Geoff Hamilton

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Geoff Hamilton : The Ornamental Kitchen Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ornamental Kitchen Garden:

The ornamental kitchen represents a return to traditional methods once found in gardens in many parts of the world, from medieval monasteries to Victorian kitchen-gardens, in which fruit, flowers and vegetables were planted in the same beds in an attractive and productive mix. This method is also kind to the environment and in tune with nature, and is suited to all sizes of garden. It attracts wildlife, thus helping to keep pests under control, and the different species growing side by side make the most of the soil. In this book Geoff Hamilton describes how to create a kitchen garden from scratch or to transform an existing garden. Using drawings and step-by-step photographs, he shows how to plan a garden with paths, beds, patio and pool, and how to incorporate components such as brick and scree paths,

arbours and pergolas, cold frames, cloches and compost bins, and lawns. Detailed descriptions are included of various kinds of plants which are suitable for a kitchen garden, together with guidance on their cultivation, and the final chapter explains how to deal with pests, diseases and weeds without recourse to chemicals, and how to increase the productivity of the soil by using natural fertilizers.

From Publishers Weekly Carrots grow in the arms of blue trailing lobelia and spinach pokes through lipstick-red impatiens in this organic Eden that is beautiful and productive. Drawing on his BBC-TV series of the same title, the British author does away with the neat rows in rectangular beds that ape commercial farming's monoculture and promote chemical dependency. The untamed diversity of plants Hamilton advocates discourages disease and invites natural predators for pest control. Relevant information for the home gardener is provided in full: planning and design; construction of patios, paths, etc.; and various cultivation practices. Unfortunately, text and photos highlight individual plants-perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs and fruits (Zones 5-8)-while stinting on specific suggestions for combining plants-the very subject at hand. British vocabulary (e.g., courgettes for zucchini) may confuse some readers, and predictable plant selections won't excite adventurous gardening cooks. But all in all, this is a convincing presentation for a compelling environmental garden style. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The ornamental kitchen garden is one that grows flowers, fruits, and vegetables together in the same plot, a method first used by medieval gardeners. Hamilton, host of BBC-TV's Ornamental Kitchen Garden series, gives instructions on designing both small and large gardens and on constructing patios, paths, arbors, pools, pergolas, cold frames, walls, fences, parterres, compost bins, and cloches. In the chapter "The Gardening Calendar," he suggests plants suitable to grow at various times of the year. A chapter on decorative plants gives instructions on growing trees, shrubs, border plants, bulbs, annuals, climbers, perennials, and pool and bog plants. There is also data on attracting wildlife and on containers. Other chapters cover herbs, fruits, and vegetables. There are color and black-and-white drawings and color photographs throughout this truly comprehensive guide. George Cohen