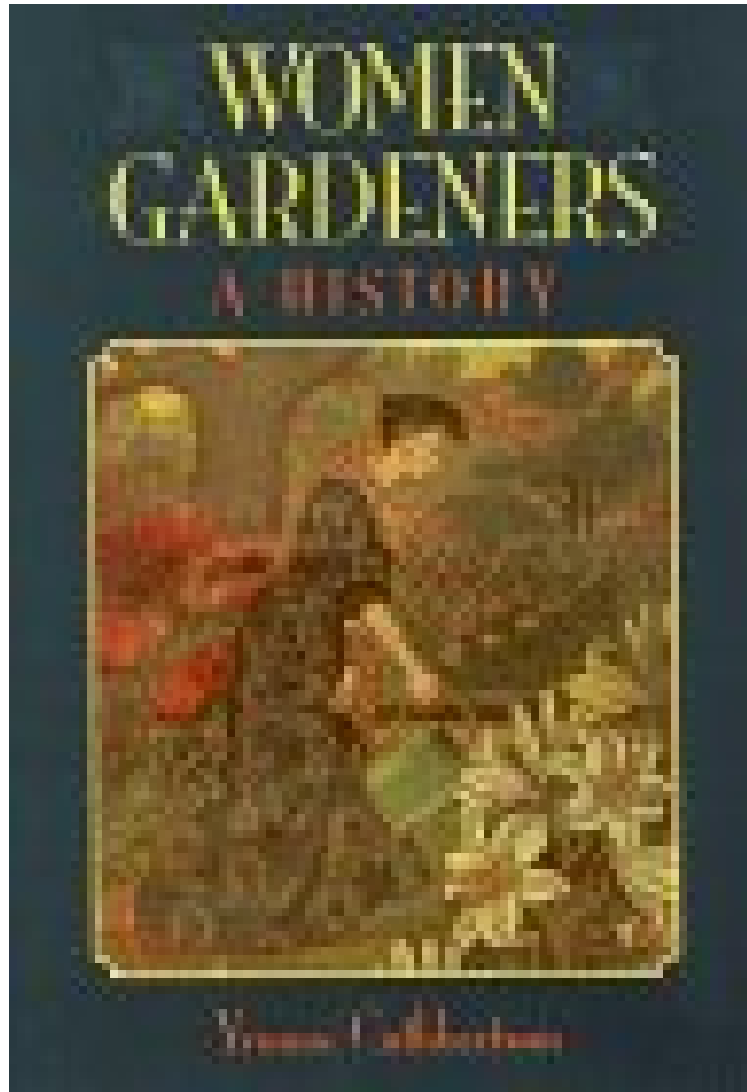


(Free and download) Women Gardeners: A History

Women Gardeners: A History

Yvonne Cuthbertson

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



 Download

 Read Online

#3432527 in Books Arden Pr 1998-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.04 x 7.30 x 10.38l, #File Name: 0912869216220 pages | File size: 37.Mb

Yvonne Cuthbertson : Women Gardeners: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women Gardeners: A History:

Women have always tended the land. Early woman scratched the earth with a pointed, fire-dried stick to plant seeds she had gathered in the wild. Female slaves toiled to establish fragrant flowers and exotic fruits in the gardens at Luxor and Thebes. Women of the Elizabethan nobility displayed their elaborate, formal gardens as symbols of their wealth

and position. During World War II, patriotic women dug up every spare piece of land to plant vegetables and herbs to support the war effort. Women's role in the garden has been a fluctuating and complex one—dependent upon their social class and the degree to which they have been able to break free of the restrictive social and moral conventions of the day. This story of women gardeners is interwoven with a gradually emerging feminism and the cultural, social, and political events of the times. The book reveals a colorful array of gardeners—the social elite, women landscape architects, and those who wrote gardening books or started horticultural schools. But it also looks at those who lived hand to mouth—black women slaves toiling from dawn to dusk on southern plantations and war-weary British women struggling to feed their families off tiny plots of land. The book contains color reproductions of famous works of art depicting women's role as gardeners throughout the ages as well as garden plans and instructions.

From Library Journal British writer Cuthbertson covers a lot of ground in this book, though much of it consists more of social and feminist history than information about women's lives in the garden. She begins with ancient civilizations, then focuses on medieval and modern periods in England and North America. In a chapter on the Georgian era, for example, she devotes several pages to the status of women in society, with nods to such notables as Mary Wollstonecraft and Abigail Adams, followed by information on the agricultural revolution in England, 18th-century American garden styles, and the rise of formal gardens and floristry. Actual women gardeners receive only brief mention. Each chapter includes some American history, but the focus is British. This book might appeal to those interested in British feminist history, but there are many superior books on the history of both women and gardening, including anthologies of writings by women. Recommended only for the most comprehensive collections. Beth Clewis Crim, Prince William P.L., VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Inside Flap Women's role in the garden has been a fluctuating and complex one, dependent upon their social class and the degree to which they have been able to break free of the shackles of male domination and the restrictive social and moral conventions of the day. British writer Yvonne Cuthbertson begins with an overview of women gardeners in biblical times and in Egypt, Greece, and Ancient Rome. Then she focuses on women's evolving social status and role as gardeners in Great Britain and the United States. When studying the lives of our female ancestors, it often appears that history was shaped by quite ordinary women. But in many cases, a closer look at these "ordinary" women reveals a strength of character and an uncommon degree of creativity, discipline, and perseverance. In *WOMEN GARDENERS*, Cuthbertson provides that closer look and in doing so brings long-overdue recognition to the vital contributions women have made as gardeners throughout the ages. From the Back Cover *WOMEN GARDENERS* traces women's progression through centuries of gardening and social change and their gradual emancipation from what traditionally was considered their preordained roles—within the family, in society, and in the garden. The story of women gardeners is presented against the rich, colorful backdrop of cultural, political, economic, and social events of the ages in which they lived. Yvonne Cuthbertson convincingly demonstrates within the pages of her book why neither gardens nor gardeners can be viewed in isolation—for each one is an expression of the cultural fabric of the times. Every age faced unforeseen and uncontrollable events that dictated the harsh realities of everyday life for those who lived hand to mouth. And every age generated new ideals of artistic beauty. Likewise, every gardener, according to her social and economic status, worked out with her hands and her imagination a way to survive as well as a unique interpretation of those artistic ideals.