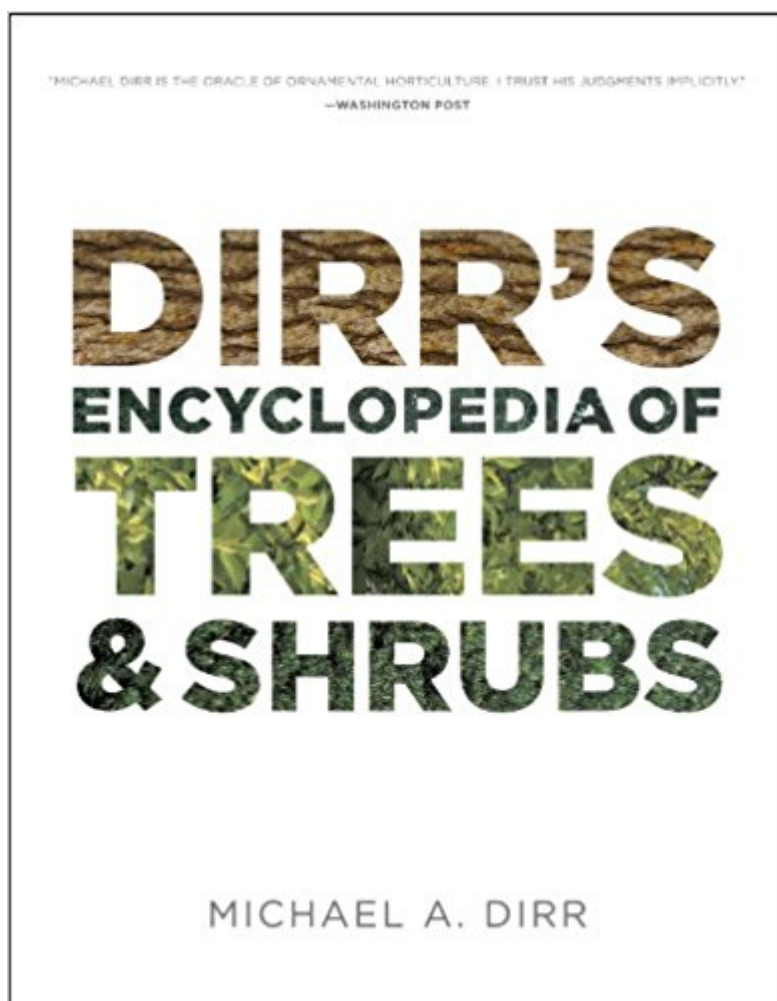




The book was found

Dirr's Encyclopedia Of Trees And Shrubs



Synopsis

3500 photographs. Over 380 genera. More than 3700 species and cultivars. With *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs* and *Dirr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates*, Michael Dirr set the gold standard for horticultural reference. This season, Timber Press is proud to publish his seminal work, *Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs*, the most comprehensive visual reference on this important subject. From majestic evergreens to delicate vines and flowering shrubs, Dirr features thousands of plants and all the essential details for identification, planting, and care, plus full-color photographs showing a tree's habit in winter, distinctive bark patterns, fall color, and more. In a class by itself for its quality of information, the best researched recommendations for hardiness in the industry, beautiful photography, and Dirr's own preeminence as a master plantsman, *Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs* is a critical addition to any garden library.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review With beautiful, artistic photographs and succinct text, this volume is nearly as attractive as one of the gorgeous blossoming shrubs discussed within. Dirr has added another well-written and slickly produced book to his volumes on plants used in ornamental horticulture. This volume is filled with information for the gardener, landscape architect, and all those curious about the trees and shrubs they may encounter. The chatty descriptions incorporate information often limited to tables—disease resistance, size, shape, and zone hardiness as well as some history and taxonomy. These descriptions are accompanied by high-quality photographs. Reading the entries is

educational as well as inspirational for readers. There are mentions of trends, such as the note that junipers are falling out of fashion but that potentillas are highly regarded in northern gardens. An appendix listing plants for specific needs and purposes is notable. Comments like "about the closest to red flowers but still not red" speak of Dirr's passion for and delight in the trees and shrubs as well as his expertise. His personal experiences with particular species are forthrightly and sometime wryly noted: "They sit in the garden and look at me, never prospering." With descriptions of 380 genera illustrated with 3,500 photographs, this is likely to become a standard reference for including trees and shrubs in gardens of all types. Highly recommended for all public and academic libraries. --Linda Scarth

"Dirr has guided discerning gardeners for decades" he has made the American landscape a better place. "The Washington Post "Belongs on every serious gardener's shelf. . . . This is a new, spruced-up edition of the bible of the industry, with a cleaner design, wipeable cover, newly introduced plants and changes in plant names. Just in time for a new generation of gardeners, Dirr's encyclopedia is as charming as it is refined." "The New York Times "Dirr has added another well-written and slickly produced book to his volumes on plants used in ornamental horticulture. Educational as well as inspirational. . . . This is likely to become a standard reference for including trees and shrubs in gardens of all types." "Booklist starred review "Dirr has been growing and breeding plants for years and has experience with all the plants in this book. . . . There are 15 special topic listings" by flower color, flowering sequence, fall color, winter interest, salt or shade tolerance, moisture requirements, and plant form "which will help gardeners choose plants, as well as indexes of botanical and common names." "Library Journal "Michael Dirr's hefty Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs belongs next to the American Horticultural Society's A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants on your shelf of essential garden books. It is packed with information, features more than 3500 photographs for identification, and is written with wit and charm." "MarthaStewart.com "For any serious gardener, the expense of this book will be repaid many times over in the valuable advice and information it will impart, page by page and pound by pound." "Country Gardens "Dirr's frank and often witty assessments make his works all the more special, unique, and fun to read." "American Gardener "Long regarded as the nation's foremost expert on trees and shrubs, Dr. Dirr has published a new book that, like his previous Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, draws on his encyclopedic knowledge and years of personal experience with trees and shrubs. However, the new book, Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs, adds thousands of photos to the mix, too."

• "Better Homes and Gardens • Professor Michael A. Dirr is THE MAN when it comes to woody plants.
 • "Garden Rant • Sure to be one of the basic books for a serious gardener. It's a user-friendly, photo packed distillation of the knowledge and informed opinion that make Dirr's text packed • Manual of Woody Landscape Plants • scripture in the landscape profession.
 • "Chicago Tribune • Meriting the terms classic, authoritative, gold-standard, this reference updates and combines in one binding two previously published books: Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs and Dirr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates. Several thousand photos of excellent quality and consistency support graceful, well-informed text.
 • "Reference and Research Book News • Whether you're a landscape designer or architect or just a garden enthusiast, you can't do without either of these (Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs and the Manual of Woody Landscape Plants) books. The new Dirr Encyclopedia is a sheer delight, and way too long in coming!
 • "Garden Design Online

Michael Dirr is THE recognized expert on trees and shrubs for residential landscaping, and this encyclopedic compendium of his research and observations is one of the best resources you'll find for choosing trees and shrubs for your home! Having razed our front and side yards to replace our aging driveway and front walk with beautiful brick pavers, I bought this to help me choose shrubs and a few trees for the resulting blank palette. We had hired a landscape architect to design the entire project both the hardscape and the plantings, and we used professionals to do the installation. Working with our hardscape professional, the original design was transformed in many seemingly small ways resulting in a stunning end result. When we began looking at the trees and shrubs suggested, I could see that some "seemingly small" changes and substitutions could once again have a powerful impact on the final project. Dirr's gave me the information I needed to evaluate the plants that had been suggested and also find other plants we might like more or that fit my mental image of our garden better.

PROS: 1) Each entry includes information on size, shape, color, cultivation requirements, and appropriate zones, as well as Dirr's anecdotal information on his personal experiences with and sightings of the plants. The impact of pests and diseases is also noted. 2) Each entry is lavishly illustrated with photos of the mature plant, and close-ups of leaves, fruit, and flowers. Where appropriate entries also include photos of massed plantings and seasonal variations of significance. 3) Information on varieties and cultivars of each species extends the information on choices. 4) The appendices include lists of plants for various specific purposes, e.g., color, winter interest, bloom time, shade tolerance, etc.

CONS: The book is organized based on taxonomic names, some easier to "translate" than others. Magnolia = Magnolia (that's easy!) Pinus

= Pine (not so hard!), but Picea = Spruce and Thuja = Arborvitae (well, that's a very different kettle of fish!) I used the photos to navigate, stopping to read more about plants whose photos appealed, and am very satisfied with the results so far. Filling out the palette will take several years, and I expect to find Dirr's useful right through to the end.

As an owner of Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs, which covers zones 5 and below, I wondered if I would find this book useful. I did, in fact. Not only do I own some zone 6 plants that get extra protection, but I found that many of the plant categories in this 951 page book (up from 493) have been expanded to include cultivars introduced in recent years. If you own his books on viburnums or hydrangeas, this will not add to your knowledge. But as someone who gardens outside of my zone, and whose own zone is warming, I found this book excellent, with the usual blunt descriptions, useful comparisons and insights that make Dirr books indispensable. I have begun collecting abelias, for example, and bringing them into a protected area, and this plant was not covered in my first book. And of course the photography, as with all Dirr's books, is superb.

Excellent book cataloguing common trees and shrubs that an American gardener would encounter. Organized by genus, it is useful to know the scientific/Latin name for a plant, but the index will help you find it by common name as well. Each plant has excellent pictures and useful commentary, including common cultivars and Dirr's own take on them. In the back are lists of plants by interest: fall color, flower color, soil tolerances, etc. These are very useful to select and research potential new inhabitants in your own garden. I highly recommend this book for anyone with a significant garden, or just an interest in trees and shrubs. I've spent hours pouring over it and learned a great deal about what is growing in my yard and in my neighborhood.

Lots of great information on many different trees and shrubs. A must have resource for any serious gardener or landscaper. However the only drawback is it is difficult to look up a tree or shrub if you don't know the scientific name... No cross reference if you only know the common name. For example, you don't look up "Maple tree" instead it is under Acer. Even if you are a horticulturist, but I don't know the genus and species of all the trees and shrubs out there. Otherwise, a very helpful resource with good insights.

Great price and inspirational reading.

This book gives a really good and thorough idea of which trees and shrubs are used in American gardens and landscape plantings. Almost all listed species are shown in high quality colour photos and in text the uses of a given species are discussed shortly but still in enough detail. For a professional gardener the information in the text is perhaps a little too general in nature, but I believe that also professionals can use this book as a good hand book in choosing more exotic plants or choosing between different varieties of single species. For me as a european non-professional tree-lover there is, of course, lots of european and asian species which are not included in the encyclopedia. On the other hand, there are many such trees (and especially shrubs) which I have never heard of, and which gave me many exciting moments of thinking if this and this species could survive in our climate. To conclude my review....money well spent.

Books by Mr Dirr are fantastic and vividly written, yet some user observations:1. First I open Manual of woody landscape plants by Mr Dirr and read an article.2. Then I open this book and thumb through the pages.3. Then I open Google images search page and type the botanical name (boring but what to do? No existing book does this job for me..) and save the screenshot.This book is a photographic reference to the Manual. In this respect it is somehow equal to google search, so if you need to chose between the books, buy only the Manual+use web search.

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