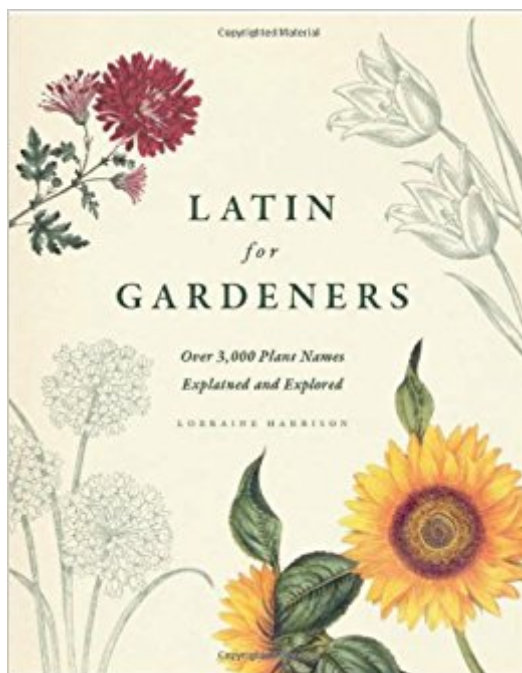


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Latin For Gardeners: Over 3,000 Plant Names Explained And Explored



Synopsis

Since Latin became the standard language for plant naming in the eighteenth century, it has been intrinsically linked with botany. And while mastery of the classical language may not be a prerequisite for tending perennials, all gardeners stand to benefit from learning a bit of Latin and its conventions in the field. Without it, they might buy a *Hellebores foetidus* and be unprepared for its fetid smell, or a *Potentilla reptans* with the expectation that it will stand straight as a sentinel rather than creep along the ground. An essential addition to the gardener's library, this colorful, fully illustrated book details the history of naming plants, provides an overview of Latin naming conventions, and offers guidelines for pronunciation. Readers will learn to identify Latin terms that indicate the provenance of a given plant and provide clues to its color, shape, fragrance, taste, behavior, functions, and more. Full of expert instruction and practical guidance, *Latin for Gardeners* will allow novices and green thumbs alike to better appreciate the seemingly esoteric names behind the plants they work with, and to expertly converse with fellow enthusiasts. Soon they will realize that having a basic understanding of Latin before trips to the nursery or botanic garden is like possessing some knowledge of French before traveling to Paris; it enriches the whole experience.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; First Edition edition (October 12, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780226009193

ISBN-13: 978-0226009193

ASIN: 022600919X

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #137,800 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Taxonomic Classification #88 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Gardening #99 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Reference

Customer Reviews

"Comprehensive and beautifully illustrated." (Martha Stewart Living)"For those who want a better

understanding of plant taxonomy, *Latin for Gardeners*, by Lorraine Harrison, is a treasure." (Dominique Browning New York Times) "Latin for Gardeners is useful, surprising, and beautiful—an accessible dictionary for everyone who puzzles over botanical identifications, an opportunity to get better acquainted with the extraordinary discoverers and namers of so many of our favorite plants, and a treat for all who enjoy the art and lore of the garden." (Jane S. Smith, author of *The Garden of Invention*) "I have several books dedicated to Latin plant names but none fall into the category of Lorraine Harrison's book which is not only informative but entertaining and beautifully illustrated. This is no dull list of Latin plant names—it is a book which begs to be picked up and looked at." (The Reckless Gardener)

Lorraine Harrison is the author of several books, including *Inspiring Sussex Gardeners*, *The Shaker Book of the Garden*, *How to Read Gardens*, and *A Potted History of Vegetables: A Kitchen Cornucopia*.

The book has some interesting details about the Latin terms in gardening. The articles on plantsmen are intriguing. I was disappointed that only descriptive terms are included, not plant names themselves. For example, *Papaver rhoeas* is illustrated on page 177. The term, *rhoeas*, is defined as ancient Greek, name for *Papaver rhoeas*. Nothing more. The Latin term, *Papaver*, is not defined. Overall, it isn't the content expected based on the title and subtitle.

There were many aspects of the book that I really liked: The illustrations were lovely, the text was well written and interesting, with a variety of different topics from biographical info to the meaning of specific qualities of plants. The book was lovely to look at, but very difficult to read. The paper was beige-grey, the color of an old botanical print and the type was small and not dark enough to stand out against the dark background color. Each word being defined was printed in a green-grey type, then the pronunciation spelled out phonetically (a good thing) but then the definition was printed in script the size of the telephone book!

I use this book as a reference for drawing plants and this book is great for that. There are a lot of different plants and most of the pictures show the stems, leaves and flowers of the plant so I have a good idea of how the plant looks. As for those of you who are using this book to learn the Latin names of various plants, this book is well-suited for that. The Latin name is written down along with the proper pronunciation and information on the plant such as the history behind the name and/or a

brief description Finally, there is a lovely ribbon bookmark that is part of the book that you can use to mark where you last left off.

I have been an avid hobby gardener for a few years now but can never remember the names of plants. I decided that it might be fun to learn the latin names but felt intimidated because I have a terrible memory for names. This book is excellent. I love it. It not only tells you the latin names but explains the origin of the genus or species name. This makes it easier for me to remember because often the names are related to a characteristic, color or country of origin of the plant. The drawings are beautiful as well and the overall look and feel of the book makes me feel like I'm referencing an old text. Great addition to my gardening book library.

I bought this for a woman who loves nature, enjoys gardening and has a ridiculous grasp of Latin etymology for plants, animal species... "SAT words" in general. Obviously this tome was right up her alley. I believe many a curious plant lover would find this beautifully cloth-bound reference book a joy to own. That being said, as a book lover (not a Latin or plant person per se), I was disappointed that there weren't more illustrations or even botany based art work from Flemish masters to complement the richness of nomenclature being explored. My critiques essentially wishes that a different book had been written so it could be dismissed as unfair. Still, when describing the world of flowers with an enraptured audience, why so stingy with visual lushness?

Helpful in differentiating Latin for my studies in horticulture. However, the print is quite small but, for the amount of information and the smaller size of the book it is warranted. There are pictures/drawings in color and every so many pages there is a biography of a contributor to plant name and discovery and the like.

The only thing the book lacks is an index of English names for the plants. Other wise the book is great.

I've always gardened as a hobby. But, after being involved in an unfortunate accident that left me disabled and unemployed, gardening has become not only a stress-reliever and a form of low-impact physical therapy, but also a potential avenue of future self-employment. Having a deeper knowledge of the plants I grow will definitely help with my success and integrity in this field. Latin for Gardeners is a GREAT resource to understanding the culture of various plants, the origins of their

descriptive names, and often their significance in history, botany, religion, and medicine. This is a "must-have" for professional gardeners, university botany majors, and even the curious home gardener. Get your hands on this book...ASAP!!!

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