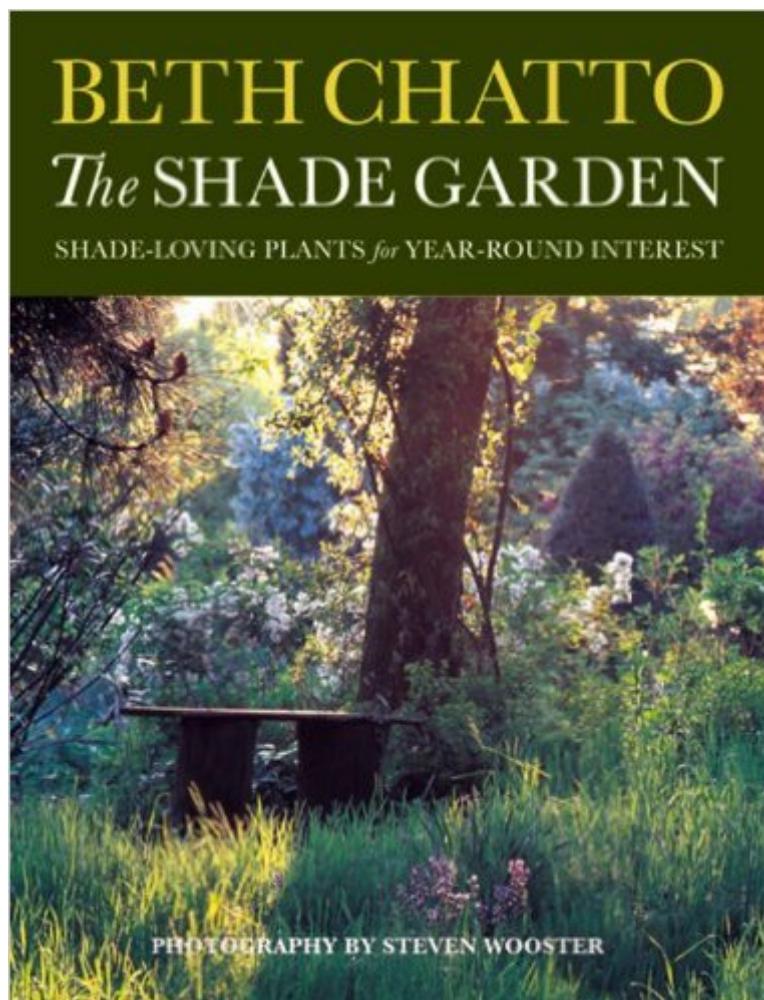


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The Shade Garden: Shade-Loving Plants For Year-Round Interest



Synopsis

Legendary gardener Beth Chatto takes us on an intimate tour of her verdant English woodland garden, explaining how she transformed what was once a barren, derelict site into a lush maze of paths where attention-grabbing plants thrive all year long. Along the way, she offers a wealth of practical information and shows off more than 200 species designed by nature to flourish in dry shade. With an unrivalled knowledge of how to make things grow even in adverse conditions, plus an artist's eye for color, form, and shape, Chatto helps anyone meet the challenge of turning inhospitable spaces into truly magnificent gardens.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Previously released in 2002 as *The Woodland Garden*, this reissue is an elegant, photo-filled journal of Beth Chatto's famous Essex shade garden. The book is a beautifully written reflection on the cycle of the seasons in a garden Chatto has designed and developed over the course of 20-odd years. It is the quintessential woodland garden book, reflecting a particularly British conceit not often found in American garden design. If you are looking for a book on British cottage gardening, this is not the book, nor is it a book on the nuts and bolts of garden design. Rather, it is an oftentimes poetic narrative on shade gardening within nature, liberally sprinkled with Chatto's wit and practical observations on what a woodland garden can be, that very tricky combination of "natural" elements supplemented by all manner of groundcovers, understory trees and shrubs, vines, bulbs, perennials, ferns, grasses--any variation (native or not) that can work in harmony with Nature's

canvas and provide year-round visual interest. Seven chapters take the reader from the origin of the garden in 1987 (when a hurricane destroyed part of the Chatto land that had been left in a natural state) and on through the four seasons. Chatto describes the floral highlights of each season, and the accompanying photos vividly complement her engaging text. The final chapter of the book lists many of the plants Chatto used in her garden, some of them with wonderful photos. US readers should note that Chatto gardens in the UK, and some of her plants are not readily available in the US. But Chatto will inspire the motivated to find native substitutes for her European plantings. "Right plant, right place" is after all her saying.

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