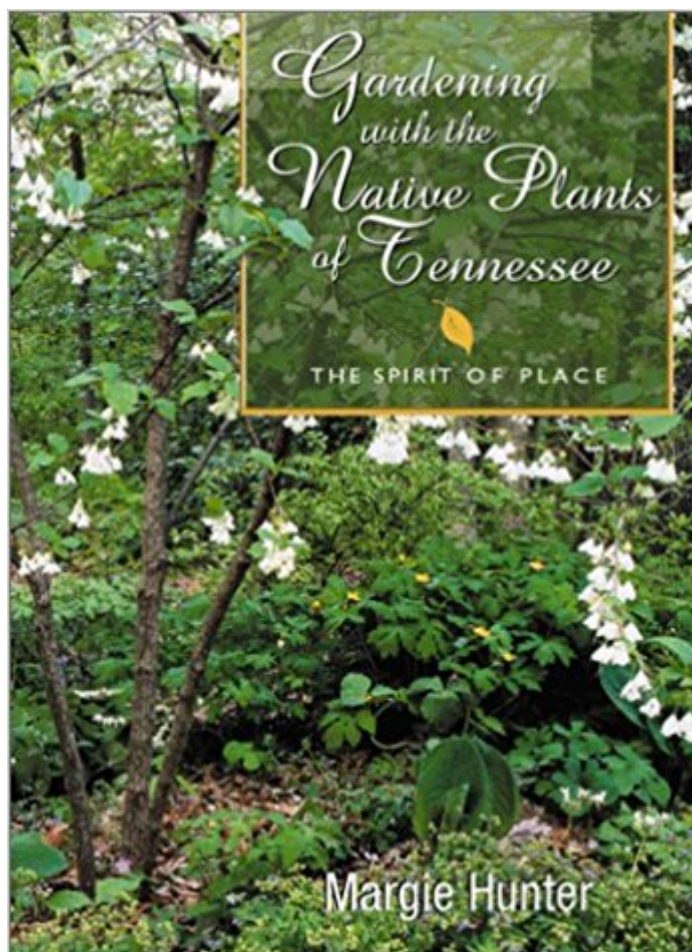


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# Gardening With The Native Plants Of Tennessee: The Spirit Of Place



## Synopsis

“An invaluable resource for the home or commercial gardener who wishes to plant native species.”—Edward W. Chester, Austin Peay State University

The natural landscape of Tennessee represents a unique treasure for gardeners and nature lovers. Encompassing several geographically distinctive regions, from the 6,000-foot peaks of the Unaka Mountains to the swampy floodplain of the Mississippi River, the state boasts nearly 3,000 native plant species. This stunning diversity of life owes much to Tennessee’s prime location at the crossroads of mountain and prairie ecosystems and in the transition area between northern and southern climate patterns. In *Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee*, Margie Hunter gives gardeners the knowledge they need in order to nurture this natural heritage in their own gardens. Beginning with a survey of the state’s ecology—including geology, geography, plant life and animal species—Hunter takes a holistic approach to the process of gardening with native plants. The book’s main section provides detailed accounts of 450 species of wildflowers, ferns, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees native to Tennessee and adjacent states. These descriptions, arranged according to plant type, include both scientific and common name, flowering and fruiting times, propagation methods, soil and light requirements, and distribution patterns within the state. Nearly 400 color photographs illustrate the species discussions. No other book designed for the home gardener includes such area-specific information on native species or such a comprehensive listing of plants. Appendixes refer readers to other sources of information and seeds, including mail-order nurseries, botanical gardens, state agencies, native plant organizations, and subject-specific conferences. A detailed bibliography also contributes to the reference value of this book for gardeners, landscapers, and nature lovers throughout Tennessee and in neighboring states.

The Author: Margie Hunter, a long-time volunteer at Cheekwood Botanical Garden, lives in Nashville.

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## Customer Reviews

“An invaluable resource for the home or commercial gardener who wishes to plant native species.”  
—Edward W. Chester, Austin Peay State University  
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Very thorough and useful guide to native plants for each region of the state. A very good purchase.

This is one of the most helpful books I've picked up recently. The beginning of the book lays out the geography, geology, and ecology of Tennessee, as well as the reasons behind using native plants in your landscape. The way the author described the state's heritage made me want to return things to natural in my own space. She also points out a few of the invasive plants in the area and reasons to avoid them. I thought this section could have had more information though. The remaining 2/3 of the book is lists of all the native wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and vines in Tennessee. It lists which sections of the state they are native to, their preferred growing conditions, whether they are easy to grow and transplant. Also included with each is a good color photograph, although many of them are kind of small and up close, so it's hard to decipher the full plant or its growing habit. I think I'll be doing a lot of research on the internet to find better pictures of the candidates for my garden. The reason I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 are 1) the pictures, as mentioned, and 2) I thought the cost of the book is a little high for what it is. Although if I had it to do over again, I would still pay the 23 bucks, because no other source that I know of has such a concise and complete list of this kind. Other states should be envious!

This is a book that I believe is so very useful if you want to plant natives in your Tennessee garden. She discusses the different regions and their different characteristics. As we all know, Tennessee is not homogenous, particularly with regards to gardening. The chapters on specific plants are great. She describes the plant, its preferred growing conditions and where in the state it grows naturally. There are lots of pictures. I don't have a negative thing to say about this book. I've already bought extras to give to family in East Tennessee.

Well written. Lots of helpful information we will be using when we start choosing plants for the home we are building in Southeast Tennessee. Like many of the other reviewers said, it would have been nice to have had larger photos of the plants. That said, it is still a great reference book.

This book is a wonderful reference for anyone interested in native gardening. It includes just the right information needed to give the plants the best possible chance to grow and thrive. I also appreciate the information on plants to avoid purchasing that are invasive and not native to our beautiful state. This book is my go-to for creating my native woodland.

I met this author at a master gardeners program. So much information packed into these pages and gorgeous photographs! Most plant books that I've seen are black and white and you really can't tell what a plant looks like from that. Margie, did a great job with this book!

This book is absolutely perfect for the Tennessee gardener! I am very happy with it. The color illustrations are very useful. And the chapter on the geological composition of Tennessee is fascinating. I love this book! I can't wait for next spring when I can add all of the native plant species to my garden.

Lots of quality information for a friend in Nashville.

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