

Glattstein, J.: **Consider the Leaf. Foliage in Garden Design.** - Timber Press, Portland - Cambridge 2003. 227 pp., 114 colour plates. EUR 29.95. ISBN 0-88192-571-3.

The existence of life on earth is absolutely dependent on green plants with photosynthesizing leaves. So the plant leaf has been usually presented in reviews of new books appearing in *Biologia Plantarum*. Judy Glattstein, the author of the reviewed book, has seen the leaf from another point of view. She is a garden consultant and author of several gardening books and numerous magazine and newspaper articles and a popular instructor at the New York Botanical Garden and the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at Rutgers University. Besides, she lectures widely both in the United States and abroad.

There is only a few gardening books in the world devoted particularly to plant leaf. The present book offers innovative possibilities for low-maintenance plantings in a wide range of climates, declaring that 'anywhere you garden there are foliage plants just right for you'.

There are ten chapters in the book. Each chapter is filled with plant suggestions and hints for successfully incorporating foliage in garden. The first one is devoted to 'Designing with foliage'. Working on the premise that the form of the leaf is the most important design element, the author explains the three basic leaf shapes – linear (e.g. grasses), lacy (ferns), and blocky (hostas) – and how to balance them pleasingly (selecting and using foliage, leaf texture and combinations, *etc.*).

Further chapter deals with 'Considerations of color'. Colour adds dimension to plantings, and the author therefore includes individual paragraphs focusing on specific tonal palettes (healthy, green and non-green leaves, yellow, red and purple, grey, silver and blue leaves, variegation, *etc.*).

Problems with shade plants are discussed in Chapter 3 – 'Into the shade' (woodland and city gardens, trees, shrubs, groundcovers, perennials, tender perennials, designing for shady gardens). 'Golden treasures' and 'Dusky delights', are summarized in Chapters 4 and 5 (deciduous trees, deciduous and evergreen shrubs, vines, perennials, tender perennials, designing with golden and with dusky foliage).

'Shimmering selections' and 'Varied variegation' are dealt with in Chapters 6 and 7 (trees, shrubs, perennials for shade and for sun, tender perennials). 'Herbs and edible ornamentals' are presented in Chapter 8 (fragrant foliage, leafy vegetables, *etc.*).

Chapter 9, 'Geometry in the garden' is devoted to the hedges, fedges, labyrinths and mazes, parterres and knot gardens, topiary, *etc.* Interesting are presentation and colour photographs of technical arrangement, such as window boxes, vegetable garden, plan drawing of the Hofstra University labyrinth garden, geometric boxwood maze, low hedges of germander, spirally clipped juniper, *etc.* Besides spring and summer foliage, 'The seasonal garden' (Chapter 10) focuses on autumn and winter leaves.

The book is supplemented by Bibliography (40 references mostly to American books), Metric conversion chart (inch-centimetre, feet-metre, °C-°F) and a plant index presenting more than 1600 Latin names of species, varieties, and cultivars. It may bring detailed information on plant foliage not only to general readership, botanists, horticulturists, gardeners, landscape designers, *etc.*, but also to undergraduate and postgraduate students, and post-doctoral fellows interested in plant science.

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