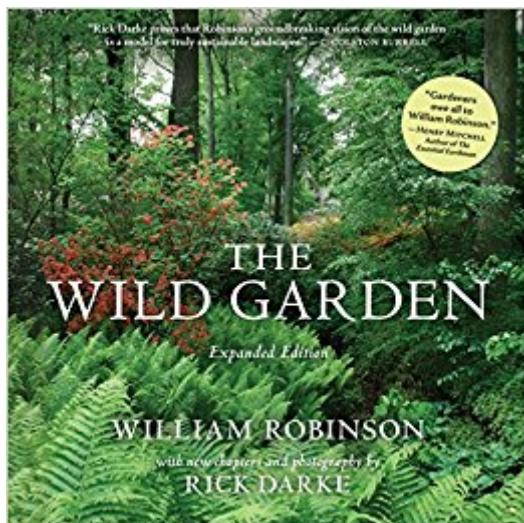


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# The Wild Garden: Expanded Edition



## Synopsis

First published in 1870, *The Wild Garden* challenged the prevailing garden style of the day and advocated a naturalistic style, in which hardy plants, both native and exotic, are arranged in groupings that mimic wild landscapes. Thanks to Robinson's passionate advocacy, the naturalistic style triumphed, and Robinson's urgent message continues to resonate today. For this newly designed edition, Rick Darke has written an introductory essay that not only underscores Robinson's importance in the evolution of garden design and ecology, but also explains his relevance for today's gardeners, designers, and landscape professionals. The book contains over 100 stunning photographs taken by Darke, including images of Gravetye and of modern "wild" gardens.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In his new book, *The Wild Garden: Expanded Edition*, Darke teams up across the ages with a kindred spirit: William Robinson. . . . Both men were ahead of their times. . . . Garden Design . . . "This new edition is two books in one, and a handsome volume at that. Henry Mitchell said it all when he claimed gardeners owe all to William Robinson. We do, and this book is the perfect way to appreciate that statement. . . . "Gardens Illustrated . . . "This new, expanded edition. . . . is essential reading for today's ecologically minded gardens. . . . "Landscape Architecture . . . "I'm giving a big Thumbs Up to Rick Darke's updating of William

Robinson's classic *The Wild Garden*. "If there was but one book on our garden library shelf, William Robinson's *The Wild Garden* would be the single tome, at once revolutionary and oozing charm. . . . With photographer and writer Rick Darke's added chapters and insight, we understand more than ever the wisdom and urgency of Robinson's garden gospel." Chicago Tribune "Rick Darke retains all the original's beautiful engraved illustrations while augmenting them with his own rich color photographs." Martha's Vineyard Times "Rick Darke could well be Robinson's reincarnation." Ottawa Citizen "Robinson's seminal work set forth a vision of the naturalistic approach that informed gardening for generations. . . . With photographer and writer Darke's added chapters and insight, we understand more than ever the wisdom and urgency of Robinson's garden gospel." Tuscaloosa News "Will truly inspire you. Originally published in 1870, [it] remained in print for more than 50 years with a message that is just as revolutionary today." Wenatchee World

"Rick Darke captures in text and brilliant photography the essence of Robinson's philosophy, now practiced virtually worldwide." Peter Herbert, consultant and former proprietor of Gravetye Manor "Rick Darke has done a great service to all gardeners in showing how Robinson's nineteenth-century classic is alive and relevant to us and our time." Noël Kinsbury, garden designer, author, lecturer William Robinson's revolutionary book, *The Wild Garden*, envisioned an authentically naturalistic approach to gardening that is more vital today than ever before. First published in 1870, *The Wild Garden* evolved through many editions and remained in print through the remainder of the author's lifetime (1838–1935). In the book, Robinson issued a forceful challenge to the prevailing style of the day, which relied upon tender plants arranged in rigidly geometrical designs. In sharp contrast, Robinson advocated for the use of hardy, locally adapted native and exotic plants arranged according to local growing conditions. Robinson's vision was inspired by his first-hand observations of natural habitats in Europe and North America, and he put his ideas into practice in his own garden at Gravetye Manor in West Sussex. The *Wild Garden* was ground-breaking and hugely influential in its day, and is stunningly relevant to twenty-first century gardeners and landscape stewards seeking to adopt sustainable design and management practices. In addition to the complete original text and illustrations from the fifth edition of 1895, this expanded edition includes new chapters and 125 color photographs by award-winning

photographer and landscape consultant Rick Darke. His new material places wild gardening in modern context, underscoring Robinson's importance in the evolution of ecological design and illustrating an inspiring diversity of contemporary wild gardens.

It is amazing how much gardening has not changed since William Robinson wrote this book a century ago. His concepts of garden design and plant use are still the basis of what we do today. The older books have more knowledge in them than some of the newer books with pretty pictures since they explain the "Why" of what is being done.

Really appreciate this expanded edition, with photographs and chapters by Rick Darke. William Robinson was a visionary, understanding that sustainable gardening was the way of the future, one hundred plus years ago. As others have pointed out, the book is not about wild flowers but a selection of beautiful - sometimes exotic - plants that do well in England's climate and grow "like wild", vigorous and hardy, with little care once planted. Perhaps the title of Robinson's book should have been The Hardy Garden! But the point is clear: use plants that are easy to grow in your climate.

gorgeous book

Although Mr. Robinson writes from the viewpoint of landed English gentry, his joy in the land and his careful stewardship of the acres and acres he owns make a good read. Considering that Victoria was still alive, Robinson's concepts and techniques are remarkably ahead of his times. And much of what he suggests is translatable to this century and our much smaller plots.

This is a beautiful book for those who love gardens. It provides a lovely look into different types of gardens with a very personalized touch to its informative narration. I got one for my mother, who had been taking it out from the library repeatedly. Now she is thrilled to have her own book!

The Wild Garden by William Robinson was written and re written over a period of more than 50 years for the Victorian English gardeners as a rebellion from the changed out bedding practices of the time. Robinson used native plants and imported plants from similar climates to enhance his estate in western England. The expanded edition uses wonderful photographs to enhance the wood cut prints of the 1890's edition.

I live in Italy and find this book very useful also for our flora. I think it is a manual that is still actual and enriched by the comments.

This is not really about wild gardens. Nonetheless it was interesting to learn the history of how formal gardens of the past started to change with gardeners using indigenous plants that were pretty and perennial (considered at the time wild) instead of exotic and annual. However it is not about wildflowers

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