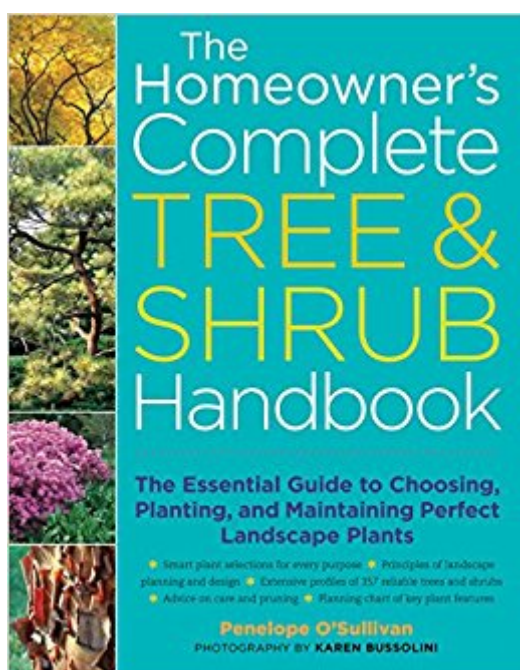


The book was found

# The Homeowner's Complete Tree & Shrub Handbook: The Essential Guide To Choosing, Planting, And Maintaining Perfect Landscape Plants



## Synopsis

Trees and shrubs can bring regal silhouettes and spectacular foliage to any home landscape. This comprehensive guide covers everything you need to know to design, plant, and maintain a beautiful and thriving woody garden. With detailed profiles of hundreds of tree and shrub varieties that include information on availability, size, hardiness, and special characteristics, Penelope O'Sullivan shows you how to use these plants to add structure and texture to your outdoor space. Create a vivacious landscape dotted with springtime blossoms, rugged bark, and summer fruits.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's always hard to find exactly what you want in plant identification books. Not enough detailed photos, no mention of common problems, not enough emphasis on the best cultivars or plant sizes. The Homeowner's Complete Tree & Shrub Handbook: The Essential Guide to Choosing, Planting, and Maintaining Perfect Landscape Plants by Penelope O'Sullivan (Storey Publishing, 2007) solves a lot of those problems. The introductory section discusses how to use plants in the landscape, then moves on to choosing the right plant for the right place, with excellent lists of trees and shrubs for sun & shade, wet & dry soils, etc. In addition, the author has lists you seldom see elsewhere: top choices for standout barks, colorful evergreens, unusual textures, striking silhouettes. Another section on plant care covers major diseases, pollution-tolerant plants and also planting, pruning, and rejuvenating shrubs. Each entry in the A to Z list of trees and shrubs

has a general plant description, an excellent section on landscape use, followed by "Designer's Choice" -- a listing of the best cultivars on the market. Photographs by Karen Bussolini would be quite helpful in identification.

— "A LANDSCAPER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA." Here's the big, thick book on everything you want to know about trees and shrubs.

• St. Petersburg Times — "Most gardeners are practical people who need a lot of information on a lot of issues. That's why I really like this down-to-earth 416-page rundown on the ambitious topic of trees and shrubs.

• Harrisburg Patriot-News — "The real jewel of this volume is the extensive A-Z directory of nearly 350 trees and shrubs, many offering more than one season of interest. There is even a handy pronunciation guide for every plant name.

• Library Journal — "This book looks great, a true encyclopedia on trees and shrubs and how to select and care for them.

• The Journal-News — "An all-inclusive guide to choosing, planting, and caring for these wonderful woody plants.

• The Journal Inquirer (Manchester, Conn.) — "This handbook is a source of inspiration and seasoned advice for making sound choices from the start and maintaining your plants as they develop and grow.

• Lexington Herald-Leader — "One problem with garden books that try to say too much about everything is that they often end up saying too little about anything. Happily, this is not the case with The Homeowner's Complete Tree & Shrub Handbook by garden designer and author Penelope O'Sullivan.

• The American Gardener —

Four-Season Drama for Every Yard Trees and shrubs frame your property and add a sense of structure to the ever-changing environment of your yard. This comprehensive guide explains the principles and practicalities of bringing magnificent woody plants to every landscape. Learn to use basic landscape design theories to select trees and shrubs that complement your property. Answer a detailed questionnaire to identify trees and shrubs that suit your needs and preferences. Enjoy spring flowers, summer fruits, fall foliage, and winter's bare branches with four-season design suggestions. Shop and plant with assurance, choosing woodies from nurseries, home and garden centers, and mail-order sources. Find everything you need to know — from planting tips to maintenance advice — to keep plants healthy and happy. Browse profiles of 357 reliable trees and shrubs. Each entry features how best to use the plant in your landscape, along with complete growing information.

After a recent talk by Karen Bussolini, this book's photographer, I bought a paperback edition on the spot. I urge you to do the same if you plan to buy trees or shrubs for your

garden. I've used the book almost daily for a month now and the title and subtitle are stated accurately. This book is "complete" and offers "essential" information for gardeners of all experience levels. Check out the Table of Contents, index and back cover for yourself with the "Look Inside" tool. Information is organized into bite-sized topics, charts, and scores of lists, such as Trees and shrubs with unusual textures, Bark standouts, Colorful evergreens, Native plants that attract wildlife, Deer-resistant varieties, etc. This handbook explains how to evaluate your home landscape and growing conditions, select quality plants (with the Buyer's Checklist on page 79), plant them correctly and care for them afterwards. The Trees and Shrubs A-Z section describes each plant's essential details and landscape uses, which sometimes includes companion plant suggestions. "All about" sidebars provide overviews of popular choices, such as maples, hydrangeas, magnolias and rhododendrons. Sullivan's friendly and frank writing style is akin to a chat with a trusted gardening mentor. You won't feel as if you're wading through a dry instruction manual. Bussolini's photographs depict the book's concepts with shots of landscapes that are achievable for this average gardener. Throughout, Bussolini's photos beautifully showcase the 357 plants described. Her close-ups show unique plant features that lend multi-season interest to landscapes. I wanted to address two points raised in other reviews: 1) I've seen no evidence that "plants had misprints." 2) Latin names are used instead of common plant names in most books for the sake of accuracy. Plants are known by a variety of common names, much like some people have nicknames. The Latin name assures gardeners they've found the right plant when they see the Latin name on a plant tag. A good example of this is the small tree with the Latin name *Amelanchier*. The tree's common names include Shadbush, Shadblow, Serviceberry, Juneberry and Saskatoon, any one of which you may hear referenced depending on where you live. In summary, the combination of writing and photography raised my confidence and motivation to tackle an overdue landscape renovation. This was a purchase worthy of the limited space left on my gardening bookshelf.

While browsing through tree and shrub books at Barnes and Nobles, this one by far was the most complete. So good I had to have it and bought it on . Not only does it give you regular text book definitions of everything, the author gives her personal opinions and incites (in my case Red

Maples), which is hard to find. For ex. what shrubs/trees will work in what soils and what trees might be more acceptable to disease, and so on. Don't expect to have a detailed page for every single tree out there, but it is still a great resource and should have what your looking for. My only complaint is the Glossary. If you look up "Red Oak", you'll probably find "please look up (scientific name)". Unfortunately most tree/plant book's Glossaries are like this, so I am not going to blame the author. Since the publication date is relatively recent, the pictures are pretty decent.

The best gardening books tend to be the ones in which the author is not afraid to be opinionated, and feels free to express affection or dislike of a plant, show a little personality, etc. This book fits that bill. I found the author's advice regarding techniques, landscape design, and plant selection to be practical and wise. The species references in the back of the book are quite detailed and the author has good tastes in plants. Wish more gardening books were this good.

the names of the plants are in latin and some plants had misprints in them very hard to follow

Very useful resource for those things you forget, like when to prune what.

I would line this book up against any other one for great content and completeness. If you are a botanist, you might prefer a more academic, scholarly, highly detailed book, but for avid gardeners, this one is superb. I have used it in the Master Gardener's program in my State.

Concise info based on region, type of shrub,tree plant etc etc. would recommend to anyone just getting into landscaping. Will be using it a bunch this spring

This is a well written book. It is a very handy book for the homeowner to learn about their tree and shrub care too.

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