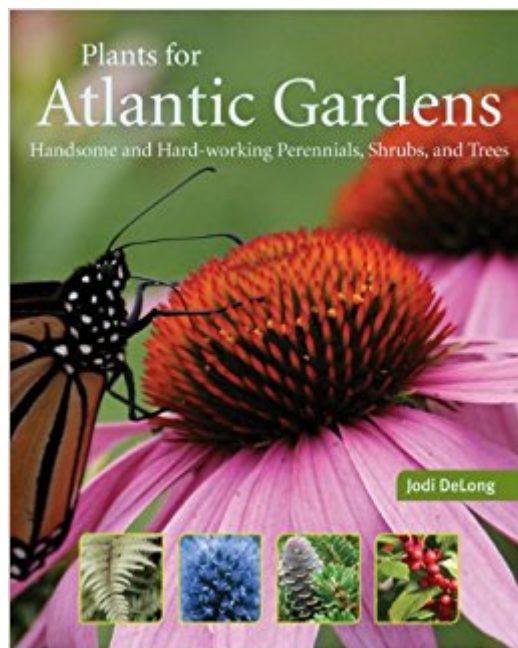




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Plants For Atlantic Gardens: Handsome And Hard-working Perennials, Shurbs And Trees



Synopsis

With all the special challenges associated with gardening in Atlantic Canada, in-depth information and genuine inspiration are even more important. *Plants for Atlantic Gardens* is your go-to resource for growing perennials, shrubs, and trees on the East Coast. Well-known gardening columnist Jodi DeLong profiles over 100 of the best species for planting in Atlantic Canadian gardens. Each plant description includes essential gardening information, such as growing requirements, hardiness, height, and bloom period. In an accessible, friendly writing style, Jodi also tells prospective gardeners about the plant's natural history in the region and shares her own experiences—both good and bad! The book includes a hardiness map, Jodi's list of preferred further reading, and short sidebars on useful topics like soil type, native plants, and pollinators. Over 200 colour photos provide readers a great opportunity to truly assess each plant's suitability for their own gardens.

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Customer Reviews

Jodi DeLong is a freelance writer, perennially compulsive gardener and author of *The Atlantic Gardener's Greenbook*. When not working in her own ruthlessly abundant gardens, she's writing about, taking photos of, talking about, or thinking about plants, gardens, and gardening. Jodi is a contributing writer, photographer, and long-time gardening editor of *Saltscapes* magazine, and also writes regular gardening columns for other publications, including the *Halifax Sunday Herald* and the [Halifax Chronicle](#).

The setting for this gardening book is one of the most beautiful locations in North America, situated on the northeastern tip of the continent, northeast of the US State of Maine. It is known as the Maritime Provinces or Atlantic Canada. Here is where family members of the 32nd president of the USA, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, spent their summers; it is the birthplace of Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, and of actor Donald Sutherland. Wise celebrities who keep vacation homes in the area include Jack Nicholson, Demi Moore, Paul Simon and Billy Joel. This picturesque swath of the continent includes the eastern tip of Quebec as well as the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick. Postcards of Atlantic Canada's scenery depict blue skies, sandy or craggy beaches, green rolling meadows and high tides. Because it protrudes into the North Atlantic, it is warmed by the Gulf Stream that sweeps up from Mexico before making a right turn towards Europe. While this meteorological phenomenon keeps some spots in Atlantic Canada slightly balmy than one might imagine, it also brings the tail end of searing hurricane winds in late summer, usually accompanied by strong rains. Winters can be a cornucopia of every gardener's nightmare: - Snow storms are not uncommon in April, and winter temperatures range from thaw to deep freeze. Add to these climate conditions, hungry deer, slugs, and a soil that is rocky, acidic, and heavy with waterlogged clay and a challenging environment for gardening is created. That challenge has been taken up by the author, who lives and gardens in Nova Scotia. This is where she test-grew hundreds of plants and catalogued a selection of those that thrive favorably under harsh growing conditions. Ms. DeLong recommends about 40 trees and shrubs and over 70 perennials. Most of the plants are those that I too have grown successfully in a cold climate. It is validating to see that another gardener also appreciates their contribution. Up until now, these plants have been the key to our successes and now Ms. DeLong is sharing that "secret" with the public. Discovering what works in her growing zone must have been a labor of love because the recommended plants are beautiful in their own right and even more impressive when combined with each other. These are the handsome work horse plants that make gardens and gardeners look good. Readers are given essential technical plant specs such as growing requirements, hardiness, height, and bloom period. A detailed hardiness map for Atlantic Canada is also supplied, as are appendices for deer resistant plants, plants for pollinators, salt and drought-tolerant plants and plants for moist or wet soil. The first impression I got, when I unwrapped this publication is that it celebrates the physical experience of touching and reading real books. The glossy cover is illustrated with a powerful, eye catching, close up photo of a monarch butterfly feeding on an echinacea flower, the interior graphic design is talented and impressive, not only in execution but in the choice of colors used to differentiate distinct

sections of the text. The pages have a sensuous, shiny feel that makes one's fingers linger. Ms. DeLong writes in a warm and intimate style so that what may have begun as a manual, reads like a letter to a dear friend. This valuable and enjoyable reference book ought to be on the shelves of every public library in the north east where growing conditions are challenging. It is also an impressive gift.

Those who garden in Atlantic Canada or other maritime climes are often presented with unique challenges. Our mercurial weather offers sometimes long, cold winters, followed by wet springs which can lead into hot and humid summers, depending on your location. Wind is a constant, especially along our coastline, and even salt spray can wreak havoc on certain plants. Jodi DeLong's *Plants for Atlantic Gardens* offers East Coast gardeners a compendium of over one hundred sturdy trees, shrubs, and perennials that may thrive in our fickle Atlantic conditions. Illustrated with Jodi's own beautiful photos, the size and soft cover format of the book, together with the quality of the paper and binding, make it as much a pleasure to hold as it is to read. In an easy, engaging style of writing, Jodi shares her own experiences-both success and failures-with readers and goes so far as to include the natural histories of many of the plants she presents. For someone like myself who is passionate and enthusiastic about gardening, but perhaps lacks the experience and knowledge to make appropriate plant selections, this book is a must-have reference. Each plant description includes both the botanical and common name of the plant, its bloom period, growing requirements, growth-size range, best planting locations, soil requirements, known problems, and invaluable notes about things such as pests, colour, toxicity, etc., all presented in an attractive, easy to read format. From Hellebores to Hostas...Lilacs to Lilies, I believe *Plants for Atlantic Gardens*' greatest appeal-and what sets it apart from any other how-to gardening book-is that the information is from a personal perspective, specific to our Atlantic region. Jodi's notes throughout the text give the book the feel of a series of beautifully presented seminars. It offers not only information, but inspiration, for those who garden by the sea.

Have you ever had coffee with a knowledgeable gardening friend and asked for advice? She shares her experiences, talking about the plants she loves and thinks you might want in your garden. You try, really hard, to remember everything she says. When she leaves, you rush for a pen and paper to write down as much as you can before it disappears from your memory. By the time you've finished reading this book, you'll feel Jodi is that friend. The bonus is you don't need to remember everything because it's already written down for you. This is a friendly, very readable book filled with

good, sensible advice and recommendations. I wish I'd had this book years ago when I started gardening. I especially like the part about garden thugs. These are those plants that you wish someone had warned you about BEFORE you planted them in your garden. My book has a used look after just a few days. There are many sticky notes marking the pages of the perennials that I want to add to my garden. Now, all I have to do is find a place for them. I think I may have to enlarge my garden...again! I live in Nova Scotia so it's great to find a gardening book that targets my area. However, I think anyone living in Zones 2a-6b, whether on the coast or not, would find this a valuable addition to their gardening library.

In February, this is a book for dreaming of the coming spring
In March, it'll be a book for planning
In April, it'll be a reference manual out there in the garden with me.
By May, it'll be dirty with fingerprints.
June-Oct - I'll use it to compare my garden bounty with Jodi's lovely photographs.
In November - December it will be xmas presents
In January it'll be a book for dreaming again.

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