Planting Noah's Garden: Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology

What A Harvest!

In Noah's Garden, published in 1994, gardener and writer Sara Stein addressed the business of making a messy backyard--of restoring a naturally chaotic and dynamic floral-faunal-microbial system in the place of neatly tended, carefully selected and weeded, and ultimately artificial gardens. Just as charmingly written as its predecessor, Planting Noah's Garden furthers Steins campaign to make lawns animated, full of disorder, life, and wildness. Studded with ringing tributes to alumroot, trillium, goldenrod, bellworts, and mayflowers, this is a lovely gardeners manifesto. Packed with practical instructions for planning and maintaining a garden of ones own, its also wonderful entertainment for anyone with a green thumb.

My Personal Review:
I bought this book because I have two children and one of the other reviewers spoke about how the author views children as part of the mega fauna of a landscape and gives her suggestions on how to make an interesting outdoor habitat for them, so to speak. In addition, Ive always tried to take an ecologically sound approach to landscaping in my yard by gardening organically. Truth to tell, I never really thought about whether or not its ecologically sound to plant mostly exotic plants in my yard versus native ones. I congratulated myself that I let a meadow emerge in my back yard when I moved in. I never gave much thought to exactly what was growing in it. Ive always believed that it is just plain wrong to collect plants from the wild...but are there times when it is not only justified but perhaps actually beneficial? If so, when?In any case, the book definitely stretched my perceptions and gave me a whole lot to think about in terms of my own typical, newly developed suburban lot. I felt like the chapter about the authors niece, also about such a suburban lot, could have been about my own. I recommend this book to anyone interested in gardening or ecology...and even those not currently interested could probably benefit! Worth every penny I paid...not just an enjoyable read, but a very informative one.
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