I love to read British books and magazines about their gardens. I am jealous of their garden scheme where gardeners open their properties for the public to visit. So it was particularly refreshing to find a book written about gardens in the United States.

The photography is spectacular and the plant descriptions follow the British writing tradition of using Latin names for plants. The book describes collections and is divided into the sections of Hunter, Missionaries, Specialists and Aesthetes.

Although dated, it is an excellent book to read. Some of the mentioned gardeners are no longer with us such as Harold Epstein who introduced Hakonechloa macra “Aureola”. This is a favorite grass of mine.

Gerald Nemanishen
View of Arundel Cathedral from the Collectors Garden in the grounds of Arundel Castle Honey. Two honey hives in a garden.


SEED PACKETS. Kate Sears. Because gardeners typically tossed seed packaging after planting, most antique ones found today are deadstock (surplus items that never sold). Early-20th-century American-made examples go for around $12 each. Harvest League Layout “The Sacred Grove. Of course, you can make the garden yourself according to your personal preferences. But it is much easier to do if you have had a plan or a layout of the Sacred Grove before you. The optimal number of dispersers for one T2 (or T3) seeds collector is 6 pieces (3 per other colours). Since corners are not suitable for growing seeds T2 and higher (at least 4 other seeds should be nearby, and only 3 adjusted cells in the corner), it is most advantageous to use them under dispersers.