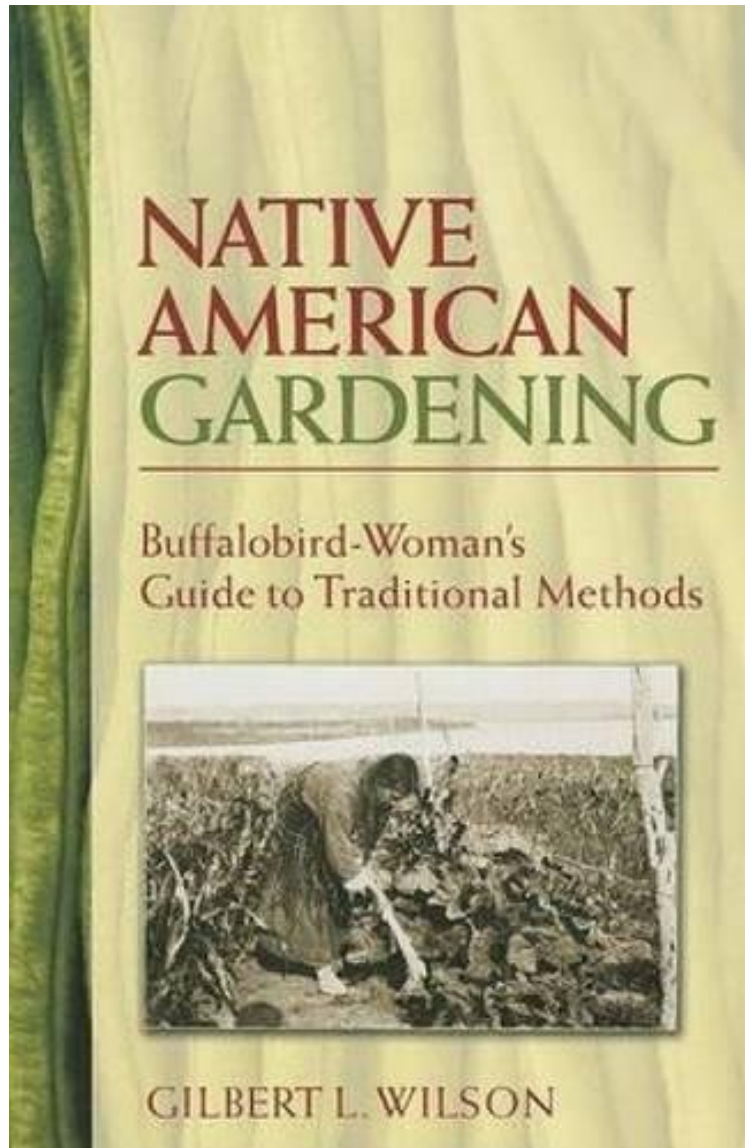


(Download) Native American Gardening: Buffalobird-Woman's Guide to Traditional Methods

Native American Gardening: Buffalobird-Woman's Guide to Traditional Methods

Gilbert L. Wilson

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Gilbert L. Wilson : Native American Gardening: Buffalobird-Woman's Guide to Traditional Methods before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Native American Gardening: Buffalobird-Woman's Guide to Traditional Methods:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Essential for Every Gardening LibraryBy JosephSteve Solomon

recommended this great little book, and I see why now. Buffalobird-Woman was an elderly Native American informant for Anthropologist/Missionary Gilbert early in the 20th Century. She relates both the agricultural practices (and other cultural incidentals) of her lifetime along with traditions of earlier times. Her voice is clear and Gilbert wisely gets out of the way. Text is great for a reprint and the drawings and photos are most helpful. Values of the book: First, there are many specific gardening techniques we could all put to use. The details on clearing new ground with hand tools, planting, plant spacing, care of the garden, harvest, storage and recipes are fascinating. I am adopting some of her methods that are applicable to our gardens. If you have ever sat down to a meal, looked at the food on the table and realized you and your family produced all of it, you will massively appreciate how Buffalobird-Woman and her people did that every day for centuries. Second, the main value of the book to me is to see a practice and power of OBSERVATION I've never, well, observed in anyone. Her world was small, but it was exhaustively known. Thoughtful and sustained observation is a first principle in Permaculture or any other sane approach to life. She deeply understood gardening, plants, seasons, seed, and more. She sang to her garden as a mother sings to her baby. Do gardens hear? I don't know, but I know she loved her garden. Amazing! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Truly Unique Experience By Mary C. Rountree So little is known about the gardening practices of Native American women from preparing fields to storing the garden products. Early explorers were men, and custom dictated they stay with the men and the men's jobs. I was looking for information about how the Powhatan Indian women used plants and gardens, and there is very little at all. This is the best first-hand description of Native American gardening I have found in all the searching I have done. The information is very detailed and well illustrated. If someone wants to experiment with tools and techniques, this is a good guidebook. It is fascinating how they made their tools from bones and wood, made their own twine, and did everything without metal. They dried food with different techniques for different plants. Everything was done with human hands and human power with remarkable efficiency and success. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lois P. Wonderfully done reference in multiple aspects.

Early in the 20th century, anthropology student Gilbert Wilson made the first of several trips to an Indian reservation in North Dakota to examine agricultural techniques used among the Hidatsa Indians. This intriguing book is the result of his research. More than a survey of primitive agriculture, however, the work sensitively investigates the activities of a unique culture. With the help of Buffalobird-woman, a Hidatsa native, Wilson not only created a poignant biographical study and a classic anthropological document but also presented a Native American woman's interpretation of economics, with views about the land she cultivated, frequently sprinkled with shrewd and humorous observations. The text covers a broad spectrum of topics, including methods that will be of lasting value to modern organic gardeners and farmers. Subjects range from useful advice on clearing fields, applying fertilizer, and storing crops for winter to such traditional activities as braiding ears of corn, making squash dolls, and harvesting tobacco blossoms. Of special interest to anyone practicing sustainable agriculture, Native American Gardening will be of value to anthropologists, economic historians, and anyone fascinated by Native American life.