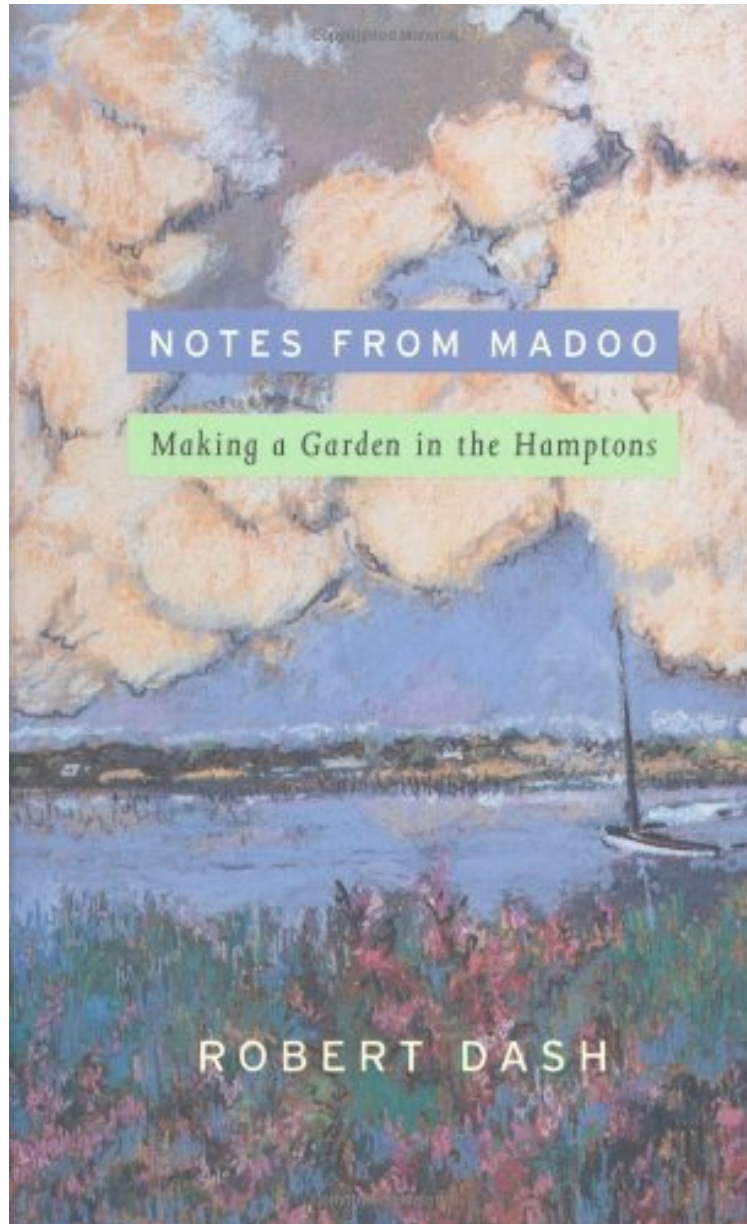


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Notes from Madoo: Making a Garden in the Hamptons

Robert Dash

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Robert Dash : Notes from Madoo: Making a Garden in the Hamptons before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Notes from Madoo: Making a Garden in the Hamptons:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Gardening Book By Victor Pfau I'm a Long island gardener myself (tho nowhere near the Hamptons) but we're in the same basic climate zone. This book is full of tidbits I can

use. Recommend to anyone in the New York-Atlantic Coast area. Not beach coastal gardening--just mild temp gardening. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I want to Visit MadooBy Patricia A. WohlfordI love Robert Dash's writing style. As a fellow gardener, he's made me add Madoo to my list of places to visit. I read every word--he really has a unique way of making the reader a part of his challenge with the seasons, the weather and Mother Nature. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Note on Notes From MadooBy Jennifer ForbesHe's a much better garden designer than author, I'm afraid. The book was dry and pretentious, and I felt it was a waste of money. Photos I've seen of his garden were, on the other hand, exciting and inspirational! Bummer.

Madoo is an artist's unusual and beautiful garden at the far end of Long Island. Described in the New York Times as "Robert Dash's ever-changing masterpiece," it has been pictured in many books and magazines and visited by lovers of gardens from this country and abroad. Now the author/artist/gardener describes his making of Madoo in a book that is as charming and entertaining as it is enlightening. Dash's artist's sense --or senses -- of the movement of air and the effects of light and color suffuse all his writings, and show us new ways to look at our own gardens. As with Henry Mitchell's books, one learns more from reading these essays than from a dozen how-to books. And whether we like to make gardens or simply to look at them, Dash has given us a book to keep by the bedside, where we can read and reread our favorite pieces ("Fairies"? "Manuring"? "The Name of the Rose"? "The Garden Tour"? Too many to list!) over and over again.

.com In 1976, artist, writer, and gardener Robert Dash bought 1.98 acres in the Hamptons, on the far Eastern end of Long Island. Intending a private hideaway where he could paint in peace, he created Madoo (Scottish for "my dove"), a unique and intriguing garden which after decades of his thoughtful and loving attention has now become a conservancy. Inspired by time spent in his garden, Dash began writing a biweekly gardening column in the East Hampton Star. Dash reflects on the seasons, the gardeners he has known, interesting or frustrating plants, the naming of roses, and the existence of fairies, to name only a few of the essays sparked by life at Madoo and now gathered in this collection. Dash infuses his essays with a gentle wistfulness, but he also doesn't pretend to love every growing thing. Forsythia, he states in the like-titled essay, is "an absolute ass of a color" whose "high-colored blooms annoy as much as hyperactive children and little yapping dogs." Dash's irreverence is a fine balance to his passion. An advocate of not just working in your garden, but truly enjoying it, Dash says, "Doing nothing but hanging about and musing and letting one's feeling roam is also what a gardener is all about." One gets the idea that Dash has done quite a bit of loitering and lolling at Madoo, and we, the recipients of his thoughtful and witty musings, are the better for it. --Dana Van NestFrom Publishers WeeklyExtracted from the author's gardening columns in the East Hampton Star, these short, exuberant essays tell of 1.98 acres on the far eastern end of Long Island, where Dash has made a garden he calls Madoo, "My Dove" in an old Scots dialect. Dash is a painter, and it shows in every line as he takes readers through a year in a garden characterized by "continuous involvement with the patterns of abstract expressionism." There are descriptions of his favorite plants, bits of garden history, some gardening advice (suited mainly to his area of Long Island) and, in pieces on garden fairies and the tribulations of Adam and Eve in Eden, a few amazing flights of fancy. Opinionated and eccentric, Dash doesn't mince words about his dislikes--the loss of a neighboring field to a housing development, weather forecasters, forsythia ("an absolute ass of a color")--and he freely admits that the hues of his garden's fences would "make indoor eyeballs wince." Dash's lush prose is best taken in small doses, like an over-rich dessert, but he has a gift for evoking what he sees, as when he speaks of wild daisies "making marvelous stops and explosions throughout the garden and in the fields." His observations about the after-colors of winter's withered perennials, the "smell of nameless turnings in the woods" and the taste of a good lettuce, "like dew," should refresh any garden reader. (June) FYI: Since 1994, Madoo has been an independent charitable trust, the Madoo Conservancy. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistWriting as expressively as he paints, artist Robert Dash recounts the making of Madoo, his Long Island garden. The essays collected here, which were taken from gardening columns written for the East Hampton Star, serve to illuminate Madoo's much photographed landscape in vivid detail. And following in the best tradition of garden writing, Dash's well-crafted words extend to a range of appealing themes that other gardeners will relish--favored plants, special achievements, losses from storms, and the like. Refreshingly opinionated and astutely observant, Dash can also be delightfully comic. A gardener of considerable renown, Dash promises stimulating companionship when the garden is at rest. Alice JoyceCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved