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## Plant This!: Best Bets for Year-Round Gorgeous Gardens

*Ketzel Levine*

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**Ketzel Levine : Plant This!: Best Bets for Year-Round Gorgeous Gardens** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Plant This!: Best Bets for Year-Round Gorgeous Gardens:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, disappointingBy GeorgiaThis is a beautiful book, with breathtaking original watercolors of each of the featured plants, with tons of information about the habit and culture of each. The author asks us not to hate her for living on the Oregon coast, where apparently you can grow ANYTHING. OK, I'm envious, but I don't hate her. But I can't forgive the fact that she neglects to provide USDA Hardiness Zone information for any of the plants, and only occasionally mentions that a plant doesn't like temperatures below 10F. That makes this book a big tease for the 250 million of us that don't live in the Pacific Northwest. It should come with a big warning: USEFUL ONLY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. I abandoned this beautiful book in a cafe because I had to get it out of my house.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. regional plant advice given with humorBy Margaret S. JonesI bought this for my daughter, who lives in the Pacific Northwest. i looked through it, and then ordered another for her, as it was so much fun I couldn't give it away! The plants she describes are P NW growers, and not of much use to me in the desert southwest, but I loved this book.16 of 21 people found the following

review helpful. Plant this-- and watch it die. By A Customer This book should come with a cautionary note: the author is a smug zone-8 gardener; unless you are in the Pacific Northwest, this book is useless as a gardening guide. Moreover, the author does not include USDA hardiness zones in the description, perhaps instead of the cutesy "sounds like" guide to pronouncing the latin name ("Epimedium" sounds like "stop the tedium".) Perhaps it did not occur to her that people from other regions of the country would read this book. For those of us outside the Pacific Northwest, this book should have been called "Plant this-- and watch it die." The illustrations are lovely, but the author's affected folksiness (most egregious example so far: "Yup") make this an extremely annoying read.

In her inimitable style--smart, smart-alecky, and seriously enthusiastic--Ketzel Levine describes her favorite plants: those that offer outstanding color, fragrance, form, and performance in the garden. Known as "The Doyenne of Dirt" on NPR's "Weekend Edition," Ketzel Levine has a national reputation for unabashed gardening advice. Drawn from her popular column in "The Oregonian," here are Levine's 100 recommendations for the best perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees. With gorgeous watercolor illustrations of every plant, this book constitutes the ultimate gardener's shopping list! Levine reveals what's so special about her picks, along with advice on how to keep them happy. So whether it is clematis cirrhosa (sounds like "feminist mimosa") or ophiopogon (rhymes with "sophie showed logan"), these plants are the best of the best, served up with a whole lot of attitude.

.com Ketzel Levine is known nation-wide as the Doyenne of Dirt, thanks to her regular gardening chats with the horticulturally challenged Scott Simon on NPR's Weekend Edition. Plant This! is a collection of Levine's 100 best recommendations, drawn from her weekly plant profile columns in the Portland (Oregon) Oregonian. Like many a gardening tome, Levine's covers perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees. But unlike the prose in most other gardening references, her writing is more than engaging--it's fun. Sure, she tells you the botanical name for each of the plants, but she also explains how to pronounce it (so Arisaema sounds like "Pasadena," and Enkianthus sounds like "send me Kansas"). She also lists the basic needs for each (for jack-in-the-pulpit, this includes part shade, humus-rich soil, good drainage, and human blood) plus its worst enemies (for the magnolia, this is overwatering and excessive shade, while for sumac it's its own greed). These plant profiles are organized by season, they're accompanied by unusually nice illustrations (courtesy of Ren Eisenbart), and they include wonderful snippets of entertaining information, such as the fact that Euphorbia (common name: spurge) was well known to both the Oubangu tribes of the Congo and the citizens of Julius Caesar's Rome, and story about the iris, which was named after the Greek goddess Iris, who traveled so far, she "picked up rainbow pieces on the soles of her feet, so that wherever she walked on earth, her footprints bore flowers in all the colors of the rainbows she traveled." What other wise, pragmatic, reliable garden reference books include such enjoyable reading? Levine's Plant This! is an exceptional find, a gardening book that's at home on your coffee table as well as in the dirt and mulch of your garden. --Stephanie Gold From Booklist Levine, National Public Radio's ever-popular "Doyene of Dirt," has succeeded in transplanting her witty and whimsical radio charm to the printed page in this delightful, cleverly written, and immensely helpful (especially when it comes to pronouncing those hard-to-say Latin names--verbascum sounds like "don't ask 'em") book. Chock-full of sound practical advice for every gardener, it covers basic facts and far beyond for those who always want to know more. Organized by seasons, it contains more than 100 expertly written entries, each enlivened by an amusing story or history about the plant. Since not all plant selections work in all parts of the country, Levine has given her favorite alternatives in this unique and innovative guide for making plant choices in your home landscape. Rene Eisenbert's watercolor illustrations beautifully complement the text, and Levine's knowledge and enthusiasm are contagious. Doris Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "In this deliciously naughty but entirely legit collection of 100 plant profiles, our Doyenne of Dirt sticks her slightly smudged neck out and picks her favorite gotta-have plants...makes a great gift for any gardener-if you can bear to give it away."