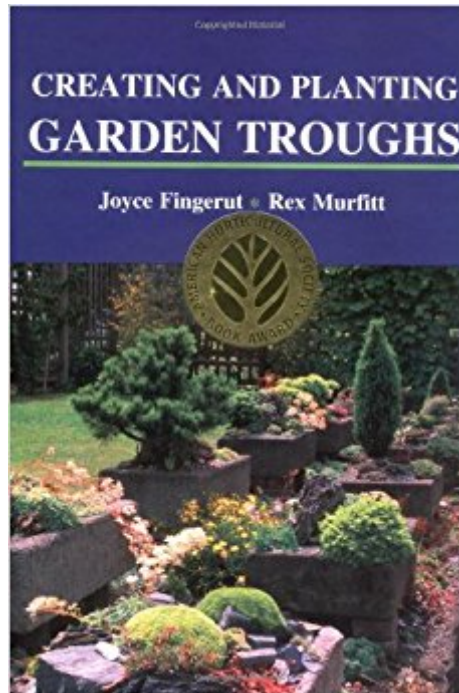




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Creating And Planting Garden Troughs



Synopsis

x + 164 pages, how to garden in stone containers or other raised bed layouts, lots of bw and color illustrations

Book Information

Hardcover: 164 pages

Publisher: B B Mackey Books; First edition (May 17, 1999)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"Moderately priced at \$21, this well-illustrated book is an excellent value for anyone, experienced or not, who is interested in trough building." -- Lren Russel, "Rock Garden Quarterly" (the Bulletin of the North American Rock Garden Society), Spring, 1999

Joyce Fingerut, President-elect of the North American Rock Garden Society and a well-known lecturer on making hypertufa garden troughs. Many of her award-winning troughs have been seen at the Philadelphia flower show and other horticultural exhibitions. Rex Murfitt, trained in England at the famous W. E. Th. Ingwersen, Birch Farm Hardy Plant Nursery with Walter Ingwersen VMH and his son Will Ingwersen VMH, building rock gardens and traveling widely. There he learned the romance and lore of alpine plants. He later served as head gardener to Constance Spry. He eventually moved to New York and started Stonecrop Nurseries with Frank and Anne Cabot. He now lives in British Columbia where he writes and lectures on rock gardening, troughs, and alpine plants.

For the novice or experienced trough maker or trough gardener, this book is a MUST HAVE. I could have been spared months of research and many lost hours in trough construction had this book

been available when I began making troughs! A very organized presentation of material with breath taking color photographs, detailed resources, extensive plant index, and easy to assimilate instructions. I recommend this to all my "trough students"! A worthy investment!

Something I wanted to learn how to do and the book gets me off the starting block, not much else.

I was disappointed in this book for many reasons. I was looking for a resource on how to create different shapes, depths and sizes of hypertufa troughs. This book focused on fairly shallow, square troughs. Because most of the trough photographs were in black and white, it was difficult for a beginner to visualize how a finished product should look. Too much of the book was focused on the type of plants you can grow in troughs. I feel a trough is just a container with unique characteristics and was hoping for information on the kinds of problems trough gardeners face and how to deal with those problems. I gave the book a 3 rating because chapter 2 - 'Constructing A Hypertufa Trough' was well done. Even with the lack of color photographs in this chapter, you will know how to create a small, square trough. If you are looking for creative trough ideas this is not the book.

I love this book. Although it is an older publication with black and white photos it holds many gems and is helpful.

This book is a good resource for those who want information about making and planting rock garden containers. Not a lot of color photos, but still a worthwhile book to get.

If you are 'into' making hypertufa troughs or even thinking of making your own pots or possibly just interested in reading about this subject this is the book to read first! there is a lot of information here!

CREATING AND PLANTING GARDEN TROUGHS by Joyce Fingerut and Rex Murfitt is a pragmatic and down-to-earth (or hypertufa) work book with 164 jam-packed detailed pages printed on non-gloss heavy paper. The book contains about 10 pages of color photos, so if you're looking for a "look-book" as opposed to a "work-book" don't stop here. TROUGHS won an American Horticultural Society Book Award, and like AHS publications and U.S.D.A. government publications this publication is filled with good, solid information. (Reminds me of the Girl Scout Handbook.) Fingerut and Martin begin with an overview of the history and background of troughs (originally carved from solid stone and used to hold water for livestock). Even though most of the

photos are in black and white, you obtain a clear idea of the beauty various shapes and sizes can add to your garden. The older troughs covered with moss are to die for. A section on "Hypertufa" explains what it is and why it is useful for making incredibly lightweight and strong facsimiles of real stone troughs. Next, the reader is supplied a shopping list of ingredients, utensils and other supplies (rubber gloves, polystyrene foam, duct tape, etc.) needed for the trough-making project. Exact quantities and amounts are not provided, but ratios are given instead. This lack of exactness might prove frustrating to the new trough maker. A good part of the book is devoted to the design and installation of plants in troughs. There are many excellent photos and an informative text describing plant choices, plant care, recommendations, etc.). If you aren't inclined to take on the obviously dirty and labor-intensive work of making your own troughs, you can check to see if your local garden supply store or nursery sells ready-made troughs and then use this book as a guide to filling them with plants.

Stone agricultural troughs, either as a theme or an accent, can add a special look to a garden. Of course you don't have to use a real stone these days as cement can be used to create the troughs. But, whether stone or cement it still ends up extremely heavy. One way to get around this is to mix peat moss with the cement. This produces a much lighter weight, porous trough that looks like stone. That is the focus of this particular gardening book - how to make these "hypertufa" troughs, what plants do well in them, and some basic plan layouts for using them in a garden design. Pictures of the troughs created by these techniques show troughs and stones that appear very old with lichens and mosses growing on the sides. They remind me very much of pictures of ancient Mayan or Indonesian stone ruins. For anyone who wants to add this type of accent or wants to create a garden that has the appearance of ancient stone structures this is a book you will want to have.

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