



CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY

Ten American Treasures from the Collection

The primary emphasis of the Cherokee Garden Library collection is American gardening, and the 10 volumes in this section represent core holdings of historical significance.

1: Masterpiece of American Chromolithography

John Fisk Allen

*Victoria Regia; or, the Great
Water Lily of America ... (1854)*

An English emigrant to America, William Sharp arrived in the United States in 1839 and began working on perfecting the recently developed chromolithographic process. The culmination of his efforts was the publication of the illustrations for John Fisk Allen's *Victoria Regia, or the Great Water Lily of America*. With its large chromolithographs, *Victoria Regia* is a striking example of American botanical illustration.



2: One of the Earliest American Books on General Gardening

John Gardiner and David Hepburn

The American Gardener, containing ample directions for working a kitchen garden, every month in the year; and copious instructions for the cultivation of flower gardens, vineyards ... (1804)

One of the earliest garden manuals written and published in America, this seminal work was supported by its subscribers, who included Thomas Jefferson, Aaron Burr, James Madison, Albert Gallatin, Joseph Nourse, John Mason, and other prominent political and social leaders. This volume is signed by Aaron Burr, Vice President under Thomas Jefferson.

3: Most Comprehensive American Gardening Book Published in the First Half of the 19th Century

Bernard McMahon

The American Gardener's Calendar: adapted to the climates and seasons of the United States: containing a complete account of all the work necessary to be done... (1806)

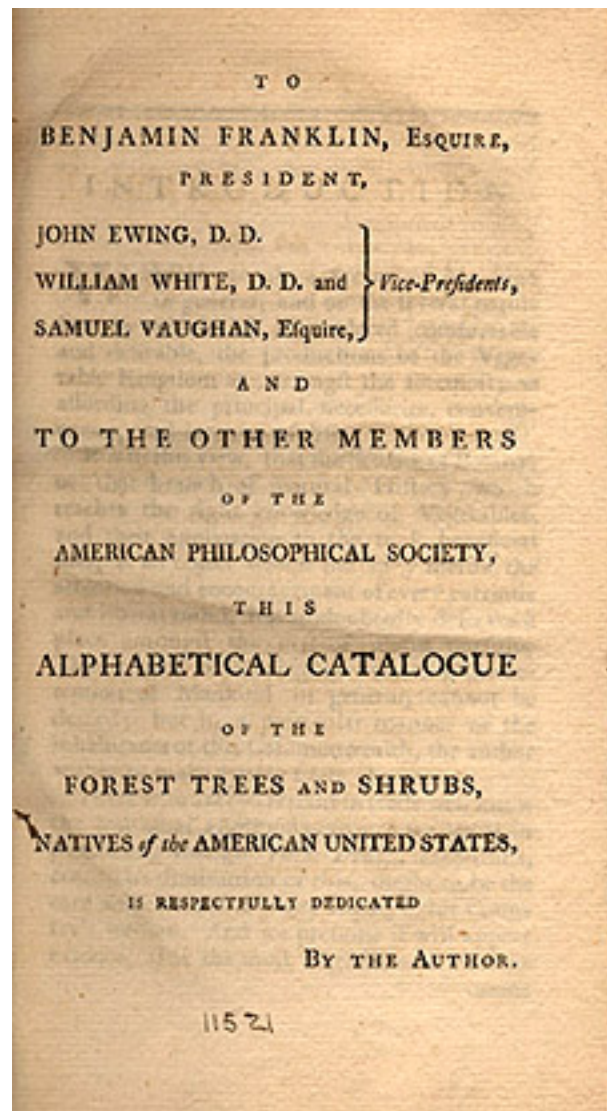
Philadelphia nurseryman Bernard McMahon was the steward of the Lewis and Clark plant collection, originator of the first extensive seed list in the United States, and gardening mentor of Thomas Jefferson. McMahon's most enduring contribution was *The American Gardener's Calendar*, a 648-page tome modeled on a traditional English template, giving month-by-month instructions on soil preparation, planting, and pruning for various horticultural endeavors. This volume has often been described as Thomas Jefferson's horticultural "bible."

4: First Book on Trees & Shrubs Published in America

Humphry Marshall

Arbustrum Americanum: the American Grove, or, An alphabetical catalogue of forest trees and shrubs, natives of the American United States, arranged according to the Linnaean system ... (1785).

A cousin of John Bartram, Humphry Marshall established an extensive botanical garden in Marshalltown, Pennsylvania in the 1770s. Marshall's garden drew legions of visitors to see its vast collection of exotic trees, ornamental shrubs, and herbaceous borders. In 1785, Marshall wrote this invaluable taxonomy of North American trees, which led to his election to the American Philosophical Society when Benjamin Franklin served as president.



5: First American Gardening Book to Break from English Calendar Format

William Prince

A Short Treatise on Horticulture: embracing descriptions of a great variety of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs, grape vines, bulbous flowers, greenhouse trees and plants... (1828)

The 18th century saw the increased use of the calendar format in gardening manuals, particularly in England. In these works, gardening practices were discussed month-by-month in almanac fashion. Early American gardening books followed this style until renowned nurseryman William Prince published this volume in 1828, which described and gave directions for the cultivation of ornamental trees and shrubs, flowers, greenhouse plants, and fruits. Prince's book was a quick success but was never reprinted.

6: American 18th-Century Classic

William Bartram

Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek confederacy, and the country of the Chactaws... (1791)

William Bartram (1739-1823), naturalist, artist, and explorer, was the son of eminent botanist, John Bartram of Philadelphia. In 1773, William departed on an arduous four-year journey that would encompass traveling from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to Florida and from the interior of the southeast to the edge of the Mississippi River.

Considered an American classic, this work chronicling the journey provides an invaluable record of the 18th-century environment of the Southeastern region.



7: American 19th-Century Botany Classic

William P. C. Barton

Vegetable Materia Medica of the United States, or, Medical Botany: containing a botanical, general, and medical history, of medicinal plants indigenous to the United States ... (1817-1818)

In this work, William P. C. Barton, M.D., presented medical information about America's indigenous plants that he collected from a variety of sources, including American Indians. He published this comprehensive, two-volume review to encourage other physicians to use medicinal material readily accessible in the new United States.

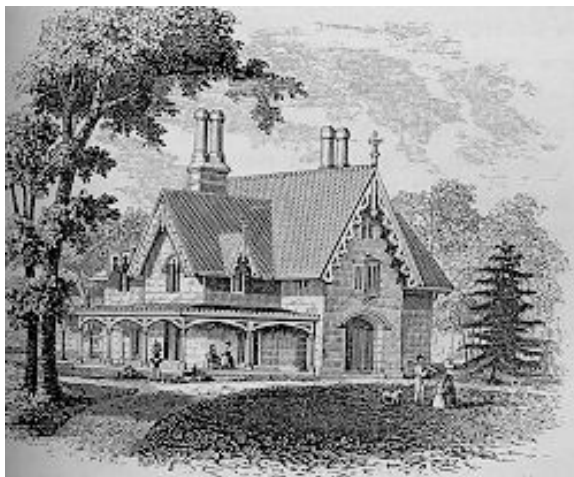
This volume includes the engraving pictured here of the *Liriodendron tulipifera* (tulip tree), drawn and hand-colored by the author.



8: Influential American Book on Landscape Gardening

Andrew Jackson Downing

A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, adapted to North America; with a view to the improvement of country residences... (1841)



In 1841, A. J. Downing published this volume as the first true attempt to develop an American aesthetic of landscape gardening. This volume, along with essays published in his magazine, *The Horticulturist*, popularized landscape gardening among America's growing middle and upper-middle classes.

Downing was an advocate for the creation of public parks in America and the health value of interaction with the natural world. His writings did much to establish the practice of landscape gardening, and later, of landscape architecture in the United States.

9: Earliest Southern Garden Book Written by a Woman

Mary C. Rion

Ladies' Southern Florist (1860)

First printed on the eve of the Civil War, *Ladies' Southern Florist* was the first book to offer gardeners in the South a comprehensive list of ornamentals (trees, shrubs, flowers, bulbs, and roses) ideally suited to the Southern climate. This pivotal work is equally significant as the earliest garden book in the South written by a woman.

10: First Garden Book Devoted Exclusively to Flowers

Hibbert and Buist

American Flower-Garden Directory: containing practical directions for the culture of plants in the hot-house, garden-house, flower garden, and rooms or parlours, for every month in the year ... (1832)

Trained at the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, Robert Buist immigrated to America in 1828. Two years later in Philadelphia, he partnered with Thomas Hibbert to establish a floral business focused on the importation of roses and rare plants. After Hibbert's death, Buist began a successful nursery business under his name. Buist was best known for his work with roses and verbena. His *American Flower-Garden Directory* was the first garden book published in America that is devoted solely to flowers.