



PLANTING WITH TREES

Andrew and Rosamund McIndoe, David & Charles, £14.99

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As head of the Arboretum at Kew, I am often asked to suggest the perfect tree for a garden and at last here is a book that I can confidently recommend to help people make that choice.

Species selection is one of the most critical decisions to make prior to planting a tree in any situation and, although there are rules as to whether a tree will ultimately be the right size, personal choice of attributes from a tree does play an important deciding role.

This book is full of easy to read information, supported with a wonderful selection of colour photographs, all clearly labelled. It begins with an introduction to trees and why we have them in the garden and the landscape, how to buy, prune and plant trees, all of which sets the scene for the user to navigate effectively through the book with a brief introduction to botanical Latin.

There are further on planting with trees and the use and association of groundcover, shrubs, colour and climbers. The chapter on foliage effects is effectively broken down into six parts, yellows, plums, variegation, silver, evergreen and exotics.

Clearly the key to the establishment and success of any tree is to choose the right one for the right situation and the third chapter begins with the small garden through to the larger country garden, while also considering soil type.

The index of botanical and common names is clear and up to date. I recently planted an unusual tree, *Chitalpa tashkentsis* 'Summer Bells' in the garden and have struggled to find a good image of it. I tested the book to see what the flower looked like and the conditions it favours and wasn't disappointed. This latest book in the Hillier Gardener's Guides series is a welcome addition to the other seven and with no repetition of species throughout, forming the comprehensive list of freely available plants in the nursery trade will greatly assist gardeners with their selection needs and ultimate success

Tony Kirkham is head of the Arboretum at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. He recently presented an eight-part series on BBC2, The Trees That Made Britain, and has authored and co-authored two books on trees.