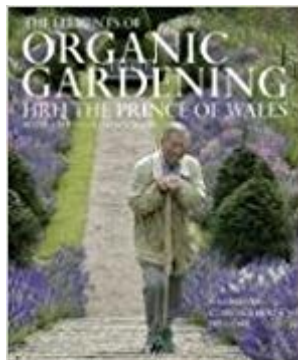


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# The Elements Of Organic Gardening



## Synopsis

From the Prince of Wales, an intimate guide to his Royal gardens and pioneering organic approach to creating world-class beauty. For twenty-six years, the Prince of Wales has passionately honed the organic practices used at Highgrove, Their Royal Highnesses' family home in Gloucestershire, as well as in his other gardens at Birkhall in the Scottish Highlands and Clarence House in central London. Now, alongside Andrew Lawson's elegant photographs and with Country Living gardening editor Stephanie Donaldson, the Prince's vivid elucidation of his techniques for maintaining healthy soil, planting varieties, and sustaining an ecosystem "in harmony with the natural laws and rhythms of the universe of which we are an integral part" offers a wealth of wisdom to delight and inspire any gardener. His practices, based on a deep respect for nature, can be adapted to almost any garden, large or small. The Prince is hands-on in his gardens, and it is this passion that reveals itself intimately to be at the heart of *The Elements of Organic Gardening*. 200 full-color photographs.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Kales Press; Second Edition edition (September 7, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0967007690

ISBN-13: 978-0967007694

Product Dimensions: 11.6 x 9.8 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,196,944 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > English Gardens](#) #768 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique > Organic](#) #2173 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Sustainable Living](#)

## Customer Reviews

The Prince of Wales, heir to the British throne, is devoted to gardening and nature conservation. Stephanie Donaldson is the gardening editor of Country Living magazine. Andrew Lawson is one of the world's leading garden photographers.

This is almost a lifestyle book rather than a how to for organic gardening. Though he does do some of that. I found how he spoke of the different soils and how to treat them and what to do with them

and what grows on the various types. I think he touches upon permaculture, root cellaring and gets into alternative systems which I was very glad to see and discusses some of the business of running a botanical garden enterprise. I found that interesting too. Prince Charles is in many organizations that have to do organic gardening, environment...the Soil Association, heritage apple trees and others. Nice picture of him on the dust jacket; green to lavender are his "colors". :) His book "Harmony" is strictly on the environment; it is a fabulous book. So much so. It is a great primer for the new environmentalist.

If you are interested in using fewer pesticides, fertilizers and other necessary chemicals, this book is an easy to understand way of learning how to take to the first steps.

My wife loves what Prince Charles is doing at Highgrove and how important that is to all of us who eat food and garden. It's a great resource.

I am very pleased with the book, very interesting. And the Prince has a long research on the subject. Glad I got it from .

A quarter of a century ago, when Prince Charles first spoke publicly about his belief in organic gardening and farming principles, he was dismissed as a tree-hugging eccentric that walked around talking to his plants. Twenty-five years on, he's considered an ecological visionary. His personal life may be somewhat controversial, but the garden is one place he gets it right (if only he could relate to people as well as he relates to his plants). In *The Elements of Organic Gardening*, published in the U.S. today by Kales Press, The Prince of Wales shares the sustainable growing methods he's used in his own gardens at Highgrove, Birkhall and Clarence House. The book covers the time-honored principles of composting, crop rotation and water conservation that we've ignored for too long at our own peril. In a modest, personable style, Charles talks about his use of ducks and birds to naturally control pests such as slugs and snails, and the use of natural insecticides made from garlic extract to control bugs. He shares his ideas on the virtues of seasonal planting to work with nature's calendar rather than against it (Do we really need strawberries all year round?), and extols the traditional values of husbandry -- the care and cultivation of resources as well as crops -- since you can't have one without the other. As you travel through the pages, the heir to the English throne gives an intimate tour of each individual area of his extensive Highgrove gardens; The Productive Gardens, where rare heirloom varieties of fruit and veg provide vivid flavors, and The

Ornamental Gardens, where planting provides food for the soul. We stroll with Charles on his don't-call-it-a-lawn, flat, strictly non-monoculture, mossy green lawn-type areas, which are made up of a myriad green plants and what some might term weeds (what is a weed but something different that dares to stick its head above the uniform?). Precisely manicured and mown, with stripes that would make any Englishman proud, these areas perhaps illustrate best that fact that you don't have to compromise to go organic. Don't mistake this for a dry gardening tome, whether you're a royalist or a republican, whether you have an acre or a plant pot to play with, this holistic approach to gardening -- and ultimately life -- makes for an invigorating philosophical read.

What a surprisingly enjoyable read. I expected it to be stuffy and boringly practical, instead found it transcending many of the more mundane gardening books I've read. His writing is very lucid and joyful to read even though he had one or two colloquial British expressions I didn't understand nor could I find in the dictionary. I was truly inspired by how easy and wonderful an organic garden could be and have already begun to implement some of his design wherever I could in my miniscule Astoria, NYC garden: I've started a fragrant Thyme garden path; applied his simple technique for testing the soil and identifying the type; set up a bird feeder to attract more of the beautiful birds good at eating the more destructive insects and pests; started using all the twigs and tree branches for creating beautiful topiaries for my herb and flower garden; as well as economize on space by combining my single cordon apple tree with my climbing roses over a trellis -- Stunning effect; and finally attached a covered barrel to my downspout to capture all the rainwater with a handy hose hookup (which you can easily make or purchase through the internet.) He was also generous in acknowledging other organic gardeners as well as ancient gardening techniques from India and around the world. I Love this book and recommend it so highly to every gardener on the planet. A visit to Highgrove is now on my wishlist. Joyful, joyful, joyful.~ ~ The Elements of Organic Gardening

Profusely and beautifully illustrated throughout with the full color photography of Andrew Lawson, and with the help of gardening expert Stephanie Donaldson in preparing the manuscript for publication, Charles, the Prince of Wales draws upon his more than twenty-six years of organic gardening practices used on the royal gardens at Highgrove (the royal family estate in Gloucestershire), as well as his other gardens at Birkhall (in the Scottish Highlands) and Clarence House (in central London), to instructively showcase organic techniques for maintaining healthy soil, planting a wide variety of shrubs, bushes, trees, and flowers, and generally sustaining a healthy and

diverse ecosystem. "The Elements Of Organic Gardening" provides aspiring novice gardens and seasoned horticulturists alike with sound principles and practices that can be applied to just about any gardening situation, circumstance, size, or soil condition. Very strongly recommended for personal and community library Gardening & Horticulture reference collections, "The Elements Of Organic Gardening" is as informed and informative as it is thoughtful and thought-provoking.

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