

Review

Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs

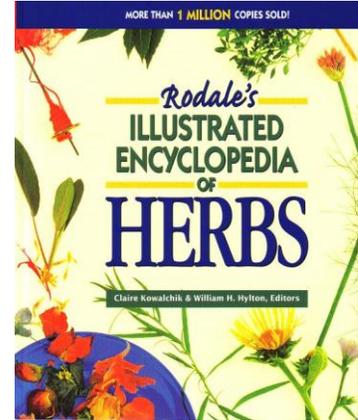
Claire Kowalchik & William H. Hylton, Editors

Rodale Press, 1998

ISBN #0-87596-064-X (paperback)

If you could add only one new book to your gardening library, I would heartily recommend *Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs*. This useful reference volume, covering more than 130 herbs, is laid out in A-to-Z format and augmented with beautiful drawings and color pictures. A treasure trove of useful information, this herb bible provides each herb's history, as well as information on its uses (medicinal, ornamental, cosmetic, dye, culinary, aromatic and other) and cultivation (pests and diseases, harvesting and storage). Sidebars include plant descriptions, flowering habits, range and habitat information, along with chef tips and recipes, garden ideas, growing conditions and much more.

Among the book's specialties are chapters covering Companion Planting, Cooking with Herbs, Gardening with Herbs, Growing Herbs, Herbal Botany, Herbs as Houseplants, Scents from Herbs, and Teas from Herbs—even Bathing with Herbs. Who could ask for more? But more you get!



My personal library contains many gardening books now, but Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs remains an all-time favorite and much-used friend.

years ago. I'm now on my third copy (having passed along my first two tattered copies to my sister and brother). My personal library contains many gardening books now, but *Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs* remains an all-time favorite and much-used friend. *DMC*

Scattered throughout are easy-to-read charts delineating information about Species and Varieties, A Sampling of Dangerous Herbs, Rodale's Guide to Growing Herbs, and Herb Pests. Touted as "the only book on herbs you ever need to buy," this claim is pretty close to the gospel truth. It's the first book about herbs I purchased many



Debbie Moore Clark is an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer in Mecklenburg County, NC. She grows organic culinary herbs in her small suburban garden.