

# Unlocking the Secrets: Essays On Edmonton Gardening History

The city of Edmonton, with its rich history dating back to the 19th century, has witnessed remarkable transformations over the years. One aspect that often goes unnoticed is the city's deep-rooted connection with gardening. From lush green parks to vibrant community gardens, Edmonton's love affair with plants and flowers has shaped its identity. In this enlightening collection of essays on Edmonton gardening history, we delve into the captivating narratives and untold stories behind this horticultural haven.

## The Evolution of Edmonton's Gardening Culture

Our journey begins in the early 1800s when Edmonton was nothing more than a fur trading post. As settlers poured into the region, they brought with them a profound appreciation for the wonders of nature. This newfound passion for gardening led to the establishment of the city's first public gardens, creating an oasis amidst the prairies.

Over time, Edmonton's gardening culture expanded, spurred by the arrival of immigrants from all corners of the world. Each group brought their unique horticultural practices, resulting in a tapestry of diverse gardens throughout the city. From Ukrainian vegetable plots to Chinese ornamental gardens, the essays shed light on the multicultural influences that have shaped Edmonton's landscapes.

**Why Grow Here: Essays on Edmonton's Gardening History** by Devlin Kuyek(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English



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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 353 pages  
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Screen Reader : Supported



## Rediscovering Forgotten Gardens

It's not just the well-known parks and botanical gardens that capture our attention in this collection; rather, we embark on a quest to rediscover the hidden gems buried within Edmonton's past. With the help of archival records, photographs, and interviews with long-time residents, the essays transport us to forgotten gardens once hidden behind the veil of time.

We uncover the story of Margaret Thompson, an ambitious woman who established an enchanting flower garden within the city's limits in the late 19th century. Despite facing adversity and resistance, Thompson's determination transformed her garden into a sanctuary of unparalleled beauty.

We also encounter the mysterious tale of the underground garden, nestled beneath the bustling streets of downtown Edmonton. With its dimly lit chambers and carefully sculpted greenery, this subterranean marvel remains an enigma, enticing avid garden enthusiasts and historians alike to uncover its secrets.

## Edmonton Gardening Legends

No exploration of Edmonton's gardening history would be complete without paying homage to the visionaries who shaped the city's horticultural landscape. In this section, we encounter the captivating stories of individuals whose passion for plants and flowers propelled Edmonton to new heights.

From Allison Shaw, the beloved horticulturist who transformed municipal parks into glorious spectacles, to Peter Sullivan, whose groundbreaking research on cold-hardy plants revolutionized gardening in this subarctic climate, the essays weave together tales of dedicated individuals who devoted their lives to the art of cultivation.

## **The Green Future Awaits**

As we conclude our journey through Edmonton's gardening history, we reflect on the city's present and future relationship with nature. The essays prompt us to contemplate the ways in which Edmontonians continue to embrace gardening and create sustainable urban landscapes.

Community initiatives such as urban rooftop gardens, vertical farming, and sustainable gardening practices are paving the way for a greener future. Through these essays, we are reminded that the love for gardening is not just a thing of the past but an essential part of Edmonton's identity that continues to thrive.

## **Unlock the Secrets of Edmonton's Gardening Past**

If you've ever wondered about the fascinating stories hidden within Edmonton's gardens, this collection of essays is a must-read. Uncover the historical events, cultural influences, and remarkable individuals that have shaped Edmonton's horticultural tapestry. Join us on this journey through time and immerse yourself in the enchanting world of *Essays On Edmonton Gardening History*.



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“A visitor from down south stared at my apple tree and said: ‘Those don’t grow here you know. It’s too cold.’ If the apricot tree in Highlands knew it couldn’t live here, it might stop scattering white blossoms over three lawns.” – Bert Almon

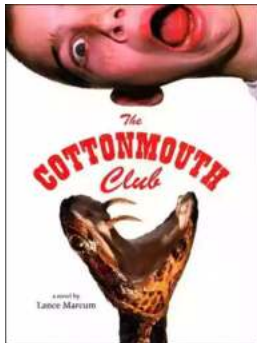
Edmonton has a rich and diverse horticultural history. Vacant lot gardeners, rose gardeners, and horticultural societies have all contributed to the beautification of the capital city of Alberta, and through the enthusiasm of florists, seedsmen, and plant breeders the city has developed a distinct horticultural character. In this collection of nine essays, each with a different theme, Kathryn Chase Merrett depicts the development of Edmonton’s social, cultural, and physical landscape as it has been shaped by champions of both nature and the garden.

Edmontonians and all urbanites interested in gardening and local history, as well as professors and students of history, cultural studies, and urban design, will delight in the colourful storytelling of Why Grow Here.



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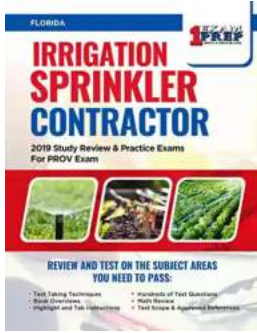
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