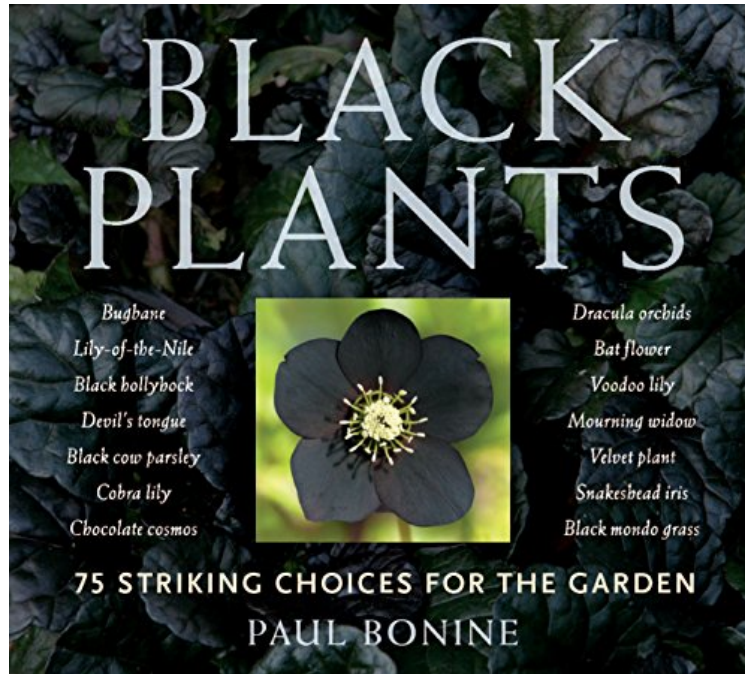


(Download pdf ebook) Black Plants: 75 Striking Choices for the Garden

## Black Plants: 75 Striking Choices for the Garden

*Paul Bonine*

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**Paul Bonine : Black Plants: 75 Striking Choices for the Garden** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Plants: 75 Striking Choices for the Garden:

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Needs more plants By abezon This is a nice book for someone who's thinking of creating a black garden or looking for a few really interesting accent plants. It lost one star because there's no index I'd have like another 25 plants. The author gives the mature size of some plants, but not all. Light water requirements are represented by 4 3 pictographs respectively. It's a bit like reading an international clothing care tag, but you get used to it. The plant photos tend towards macro shots, so you'll need to find more pictures elsewhere if you want to see the plant structure. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Useful, Great Photos, Easy to Read By Fern Richardson As the title alludes, the book contains 75 "black" plants, each with a paragraph about the plant and a large, full-bleed photo. I like that the descriptions are written in a light, conversational tone. You don't have to be a plant scholar or even know the proper way to pronounce "clematis" to enjoy reading the book and get useful information from it. Each plant description is accompanied by useful icons that tell you what zone the plant is hardy to and how much water, sunlight, etc it likes. The plants included are a nicely curated collection of deep burgandy, midnight blue, darkest purple, and other exquisitely nearly-black colors. I appreciate that the plants are a really diverse collection. You can tell that the author tried to include a nice mix of trees, shrubs, annuals, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, etc. The plants also seem evenly divided between black foliage and black flowers. Another nice thing about the book is its size. You might think that a book of this sort would be coffee table book size. But instead this book is about 7 inches by 6 inches and has a soft cover. I imagine that I'll put post-it note flags on the plants I like and stick the book in my purse and take it with me to the nursery. The small size and light weight (along with the conversational tone and gorgeous photos) also makes the book perfect for reading in the bath while daydreaming about

next year's garden. I do have a minor quibble with the book's author though. Some of the plants in the book are not black. For example, 'Java Red' Weiglia. The leaves are described as deep green with a purplish cast, but I think it is a real stretch to call anything on the plant even remotely black. There are a couple of other similar plants in the book, but I'd say 95% of the plants are black or nearly black, the sort you'd expect to find in a book about black plants. Along the same lines of my pettifog above, there are black varieties of certain plants that I like better than the ones chosen for the book. For example, I think 'Black Stockings' is a prettier variety of black daylily than 'Night Wings,' which is the selection included in Black Plants. 'Black Stockings' has ruffled petals and a deep yellow throat that really emphasizes the blackness of the flower. But 'Night Wings' is often referred to as the blackest daylily, so I guess it really is just personal preference. All-in-all, this is a great book if you're looking for some black plant inspiration. And you can't beat the price. 75 full color pics for 's current price of \$10.17 is crazy good! Even at the list price this book is a great bargain. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Black Plants = Striking - This book hits the nail on the head. By rap-scallion YUMMM! Title made my mouth water and photos and info did not disappoint. To those who think, "Plants are green", think again. From the demure to the fearsome, black plants corral all corners of the imagination. Some images are best looked at early in the day, as they are so suggestive of malevolence, they may give you nightmares! (Just kidding).

Striking, mysterious, sinister, and strange all describe the singular appeal of plants with black (or near-black) foliage, flowers, or fruit. For some gardeners, they are curiosities that yield a special thrill. For others, they are invaluable for providing contrast with brighter elements. Whatever the source of their somber magic, these dusky denizens of the plant kingdom are irresistible to anyone drawn to nature's more unusual manifestations. In this compact, accessible volume, Paul Bonine profiles 75 of the most alluring black annuals, perennials, bulbs, and shrubs. Some of the plants like agapanthus and lilies are darker versions of familiar favorites, while others are rarities that will appeal to the most discerning collector. Each entry describes the plant's essential features and details the requirements for growth and care. Whether your taste runs to pansies, columbines, and sweet williams or to obscure orchids from the Andes, you'll find a host of intriguing choices in this beautifully illustrated, entertaining book. Black Plants is sure to haunt your dreams.

Gardeners and plant lovers looking for ideas for distinct color schemes and exciting plant suggestions will appreciate this. Library Journal Black is not the first color that comes to mind when you think of plants. But as this beautiful guide makes clear, dark-hued leaves and flowers, from perennials to tropicals, have enormous appeal in a garden. Martha Stewart Living Go ahead, open the cover, creep through the screeching gate. The plants inside are no nightmare. More like a dream. The Oregonian Rather than cast gloom, these plants can add mystery, depth, and sophistication to the garden. Houston Chronicle Someday, I shall create the black-and-white themed garden I have been dreaming of; when I do, Black Plants will become muddy and dog-eared. Pacific Horticulture Black generally has a negative connotation, a signal that all is not well with a plant. Paul Bonine has set out to salvage black's horticultural reputation with Black Plants. Chicago Tribune Black works great for cocktail dresses and luxury cars, but in the flower garden? Absolutely. San Francisco Chronicle An invaluable guide for those leaning towards the opinion that black is the new green. Financial Times Some of the names are frightening, but their stories are enlightening. Indianapolis Star Your garden might never be the same. Akron Beacon Journal The addition of these striking shrubs, perennials and annuals will add depth and drama to the landscape. Detroit News Every once in a while a book is published that fills an empty niche. With Black Plants, finding dark leaved and dark flowering examples doesn't need to be a mystery anymore. Anchorage Daily News