

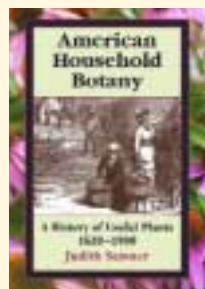
## 2005 AHS Book Award Winners

**F**IVE GARDENING BOOKS published in 2004 have been awarded the American Horticultural Society's 2005 Book Award. The winning books, listed below, were selected by the AHS Book Award Committee, chaired by **Dick Dunmire** of Los Altos, California, a former editor of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*. Other committee members were **Linda Askey** of Birmingham, Alabama, formerly senior writer for *Southern Living* magazine; **Keith Crotz**, owner of the American Botanist Booksellers in Chillicothe, Illinois; **Laurie Hannah**, a horticultural librarian at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; **Rommy Lopat** of Richmond, Illinois, editor of *weedpatch.com*; **Lucinda Mays** of Chadron, Nebraska, a former editor of PBS's *The Victory Garden*; and **Ray Rogers**, a garden writer and editor from North Brunswick, New Jersey.

To view a complete list of books that have won the AHS Book Award since the program was initiated in 1997, visit the AHS Web site ([www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)) and click on "Awards."

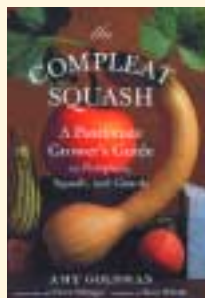
**American Household Botany: A History of Useful Plants 1620–1900** by Judith Sumner. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. Price, hardcover: \$27.95.

"THIS WAS NOT only a great reference, but extremely readable," said Rommy Lopat. "Sumner is an accomplished storyteller who weaves together fascinating information about plants and people," observed Linda Askey. "What distinguishes this book is that it covers both culture and *horticulture*." Laurie Hannah added, "I don't know of many garden books that take a historical topic and expand upon it in such an interesting way."



**The Compleat Squash: A Passionate Grower's Guide to Pumpkins, Squashes, and Gourds** by Amy Goldman; photographs by Victor Schrage. Artisan, New York, New York. Price, hardcover: \$40.

THIS INSPIRING combination of Goldman's prose and Schrage's photography earned the duo a second AHS Book Award (their collaboration on *Melons for the Passionate Grower* won in 2003). "It is a delicious book, and it has motivated me to action," said Linda Askey. "It's a wonderful celebration of the diversity in the squash family," said Ray Rogers, "and on top of that, all the horticultural information is completely sound." Laurie Hannah said, "I love the photography—it brought out the incredible character of the fruit."



**Encyclopedia of Water Garden Plants** by Greg Speichert and Sue Speichert. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. Price, hardcover: \$49.95.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS praised this book for its comprehensiveness, readability, and focus on plants and conditions relevant to American gardeners. "This is as thorough-going a book on water gardening as you could hope for," said Dick Dunmire. "This is a very useful reference for anyone thinking about creating a water garden," said Rommy Lopat. "It's very accessible," said Laurie Hannah, "and after reading it thoroughly I felt that I had learned an awful lot."



**Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region** edited by Nora Harlow. East Bay Municipal Utility District (EMBUD), Oakland, California. Price, hardcover: \$49.95.

ALTHOUGH THE title of this book—which was compiled under the direction of editor Nora Harlow and incorporates photography by Saxon Holt—gives the impression it is regionally narrow in scope, the committee felt its content and presentation made it relevant to a much broader audience. "As an overall production, this book is spectacular," said Ray Rogers. Lucinda Mays said the book



"is a wonderful example of how we can use what we know about gardening to protect and improve our environment. It's an excellent model for other regional publications."

**Understanding Orchids: An Uncomplicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants** by William Cullina. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts. Price, hardcover: \$40.

THIS IS THE second AHS Book Award for Cullina, whose *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada* earned an award in 2000. "This is my top choice of all the books we reviewed this year," said Ray Rogers. "It is astoundingly well written and leaves most other orchid books in the dust." Linda Askey said the book "was very readable while also including detailed information on a complex topic—a difficult combination to achieve."

