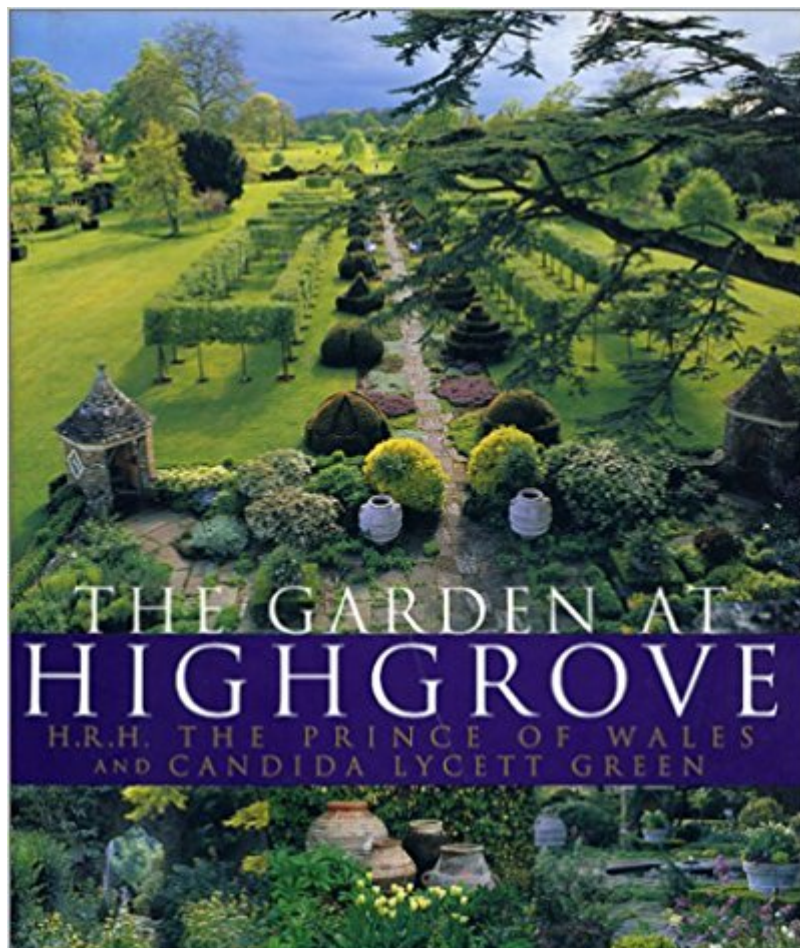


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# The Garden At Highgrove



## Synopsis

When the marriage of Lady Di and Prince Charles fell apart, rumor had it part of the problem had to do with his gardening obsession. Gossip columns claimed Charles paid more attention to his gardens than his wife. The Garden at Highgrove takes readers on a tour of Charles's favorite creation--a maze-like garden surrounding the estate where he has primarily lived for the past 20 years. Various styles thrive within the boundaries of the property: wildflower meadows, formal hedgerows, outdoor rooms, carefully plotted tapestries of Queen of Night tulips. If Diana complained of neglect, Highgrove's landscape looks like it has been lavishly doted on. In one series of photos, we see the transformation of a large plot, viewed from the house, as it has been completely erased and re-created year to year. Who has time to complete and then entirely redo a garden on a regular basis? A prince, of course. Although the landscape glows with a vibrant, almost artificial green, Charles has long been a committed organic gardener. In the introduction he recalls the period when he came around to the cause of environmentalism. While driving through a declining English countryside in the 1960s and 1970s, "I remember longing to heal the countryside, to bind up its wounds and to reclothe it in its rightful form." The Garden at Highgrove will inspire gardeners, even those who don't live in palaces, who are looking for images of elegance and can't afford a staff to keep the hedges perfect. --Emily White

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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This is a beautiful and fascinating book. I had not expected to actually read it all. I had expected to look at the pictures and read the captions but I found myself reading every word. It tells of how Prince Charles found Highgrove House, started the garden and farm and how he came to believe that organic gardening was the only way. Also it shows the wonderful gifts he has been given from around the world on his many travels and how he has incorporated them into the grounds. Many artists and master gardeners have also contributed fantastic elements to the grounds. I am no gardener at all. I do not know the names of the plants but still I loved this book. It is a shame it hasn't been updated since the mid 90's(?) as I am sure it is even more wonderful now. I would love to visit but in lieu of the real thing, this is a wonderful substitute.

enjoyed it very much... beautiful pictures

To see a garden of this scale and design run completely organically is one the best arguments for the banishment of chemical garden practices around. This book is a great addition to any garden library, and if you do not already garden organically this may be the book that will convert you. That is assuming you have not read A Silent Spring. Also makes a handsome gift, despite all the photos of Prince Charles looking very County.

I have wanted this book for a few years, since seeing a friend's copy. It is as stunning as I remember. Beautiful to read on a gray day.

It was exactly as stated.

If The Prince's 1993 book "Highgrove: An Experiment in Organic Gardening and Farming" was a manifesto disguised as a picture book, this title is, comfortingly, just what it appears to be: a guided tour of The Prince of Wales' very impressive gardens at his country seat, Highgrove. Of course, there is still a strong bit of advocacy for an organic approach to gardening. But here, it doesn't edge into discussions of European agricultural policy or the historic despoiling of the British countryside. Instead, explanations of the organic method are an underlying, but essential, part of telling the garden's story. The narrative of how the garden has developed over two decades is an interesting one, and any gardener will enjoy and be inspired by the beautiful photography. And although few of us are able to garden on the Prince's scale, there is still an awful lot in here we can learn from, adapt to our own uses, or blatantly poach -- from simple decorating and arranging ideas to complex schemes of crop rotation or building construction. Helpfully, Highgrove's head gardener, David Howard, includes a chapter explaining how the transition from traditional gardening to organic approaches began, and some of the key techniques he employs and lessons he's learned. This is followed by six entire pages of listings of various types of plants cultivated in the different gardens and illustrated in each chapter. This, especially, may prove to be a handy resource for many readers. If there's one noticeable drawback to this book, it's that there's no overall map or diagram showing where the various gardens are in relation to one another and the house. All I can think is that (assuming there is a reason for not including one) this may be for security purposes -- though that seems unlikely given the number of photographs already included. But after taking an otherwise thorough tour through the kitchen garden, the walled garden, the box garden, the fountain garden, across the terrace, past the sanctuary, under the rose arch, down the thyme walk (my favorite), along the serpentine hedge ... and all the rest, it would have been nice to have a comprehensive view of how it all fits together. After having read the earlier title about this garden, it was nice to return six or seven years later (in publishing time) and see how it's all progressing. As the quote on the back cover says, "The Prince of Wales has created at Highgrove one of the most admired gardens in the country," and from philosophy to planning to execution, it's a garden that through this book, we can learn things from or, if we prefer, simply sit back and enjoy.

This is a fabulous book and a treasure for garden lovers. It's nice for even amateur gardeners to have a selection of books on Sissinghurst, Giverny, and now Highgrove. I especially loved this book because of the unusual features including the stumpery, which is, quite simply, fantastic. The pictures are beautiful, and I even enjoy the winter scenes.(snow+England=Dickens for me!). The beautiful statues and sculptures are unique--and range from classical to modern;they all seem well-placed in this garden. I liked the way the Prince of Wales encouraged young stonemasons to give their castoffs to add to a wall that looks to be straight out of Alice in Wonderland.It's true that not of all of us can live like a Prince, but it apparent that his Duchy employs a number of people--and it seems he has been more than generous in opening his garden to visitors and fundraisers. If I knew how beautiful and inspiring this book was--or even that there was such a book--I would have bought it earlier (big regret). I anticipate many years of delightful viewing.

I first read about Highgrove in a magazine article ( I think it was Town & Country) several years ago. I clipped the article and looked at the beautiful pictures again and again. When I saw the book, I knew I had to have it. When it arrived last week, I was not disappointed. The pictures of the gardens are beautiful, but the story of the garden's development is even more interesting. The prose is informative and easy to read. I also have a new respect for Prince Charles as a kindred gardener. While my gardens will never match the grand scale of Highgrove (my husband and I do all of the garden work on our five acres while working full time jobs), I have found lots of inspirational ideas that I plan to incorporate in my flower gardens. This book has already given me many hours of enjoyment and I know that I will turn to it whenever I need a gardening fix!

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