



Book Review by Margaret Hodgson

The Jade Garden by Peter Wharton, Brent Hine, Douglas Justice, Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon, 2005. 228 pages, approx. 218 colour photos, Bibliography, Index. Hardbound, \$47.50

Peter Wharton has been curator, since 1975, of the David C. Lam Asian Garden, a component of the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research. Peter's professional career has been centered on the development on this unique forest garden in concert with extensive plant exploration in China.

Brent Hine has been curator of the E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden at the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Research since 1997. Away from the garden setting, the natural sciences have always held his fundamental fascination.

Douglas Justice is associate director and curator of collections at UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research. A teacher and writer, he is a specialist in woody plants and has a particular interest in maple taxonomy.

The Jade Garden is an authoritative guide to 150 ornamental trees, plants, shrubs and perennials, based on detailed research and observation of one of the oldest and largest collections of Asian plants in North America. The authors have included only selections which have undergone thorough evaluation at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden for hardiness and garden appeal. In addition, the authors have taken special care to exclude potentially invasive plants but introduce the reader to fascinating, exceptionally beautiful, and little-known Asian selections.

After the preface and a brief introduction, discussing the East Asian flora and the natural landscapes of China and bordering regions, Justice includes a brief chapter on bioinvasiveness which is something we have all experienced in a small or large way in our own gardens.

The main part of the book is divided into three parts: Part 1: Perennials, Part 2: Shrubs, Part 3: Trees, followed by a section on noted collectors of Asians plants and the usual Conversion tables, Glossary, Bibliography and Index.

The colour photographs, which are stunning, are interspersed in several sections throughout the book, but the organization of the description of plants is very good in that every plant which does have an accompanying photo, the plate number is recorded directly to the right of the descriptive passage. No hardiness zone map is included, but since nearly all the plants described are from the UBC Botanical Garden, they are hardy for our region.

Enjoy this book for some knowledge of plants that you know will definitely grow in our area.