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## Why Grow That When You Can Grow This?: 255 Extraordinary Alternatives to Everyday Problem Plants

Andrew Keys

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**Andrew Keys : Why Grow That When You Can Grow This?: 255 Extraordinary Alternatives to Everyday Problem Plants** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why Grow That When You Can Grow This?: 255 Extraordinary Alternatives to Everyday Problem Plants:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Not for Zone 2 or 3 GardenersBy GreenMittenI really liked the concept of this book and so I took the risk and ordered it online. While I do like that it has pictures for all plants mentioned (why don't all gardening books do this?!?), I was disappointed with how many "everyday problem plants" did not have recommendations that were the same zone range. In my mind, if the problem plant can be grown in zone 3, then at least one of the suggested alternatives should also be able to grow in zone 3. It is of no use to me, a zone 3 gardener, if the suggested alternatives cannot be grown in my zone. There are numerous times in which this happens to the point that I felt I had to review it to let others know in case this is a problem for them as well. While I am used to lots of information in books being irrelevant to me and my zone, I don't usually feel like I wasted my money - which I do with this book.I also felt that this book was light on information as the descriptions for the plants are quite short and

little explanation is given about why the plant is better. It sort of feels like he is relying on "because I say so, and I am the expert", as opposed to providing rationale. I also think that the information for each plant should include what kind of soil the plant is able to grow in. I did still give it three stars because I like the range of plants it mentions and it did confirm several selections that I had on my "wish list". I also think it will likely be much more helpful to those in zone 4/5 and up. The pictures are well done. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I found this book to be informative and useful, suggesting plants I might not have considered for ...By pocahontas a landscape designer, I found this book to be informative and useful, suggesting plants I might not have considered for particular applications. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Delightful book By ValAny gardner wanting to landscape with something other than "the usual suspects" will love this book. Thought provoking and beautifully illustrated (with stock photography), Andrew Keys offers reasons (though scant) about the whys and why nots of plant selection. If the book has a shortcoming, it's the lack of text -- only a paragraph about each plant. A book for the intrepid gardner.

It's a tired turn of phrase, but the grass is always greener on the other side. And for gardeners, it's not just the grass it's the flowers, the shrubs, and the trees. No longer! Pining to grow lilac but lack the full sun? Try the fragrant pink and white flowers of Korean spice viburnum. Love the drama of canna but need something hardier? Try the bold foliage of variegated fleece flower. Why Grow That When You Can Grow This? offers hundreds of all-star alternatives that replace and often outshine popular problem plants. Garden designer Andrew Keys makes it easier than ever to skip over the fussy plant prima donnas and move toward the equally gorgeous understudies. Each profile shows the problem plant and offers three alternatives that include three or more of the original plant's characteristics: hardiness, shape, color, texture, light, and size. With this fun and accessible guide, you can discover the secret to choosing the plants destined to be the new stars of your garden.

From Booklist Tired of the same-old gardening same-old? Feel like screaming at the sight of one more boring bed of begonias? Frustrated by failures of seemingly fool-proof flowers? In the garden as in life, there is more than one way to pick a pepper. All it takes is a little confidence and a lot of knowledge about the numerous under-used and overlooked trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and ground covers that stand ready and willing to transform a dull garden into a dramatic showcase. Following seasoned advice on cultural maintenance and design selection, Keys offers pithy profiles of creative alternatives to plants that have become all-too-common elements of landscape design. The yard next door may be dominated by an out-of-place birch; counter its predictability with a London plane tree. Replace that dull privet with showy mountain mahogany. Pull up that pachysandra, and put down some European ginger. Gardeners looking for vibrant inspiration will revel in Keys innovative recommendations. --Carol Haggas "This book will help you solve problems before they start." (Steve Aitken, Fine Gardening)