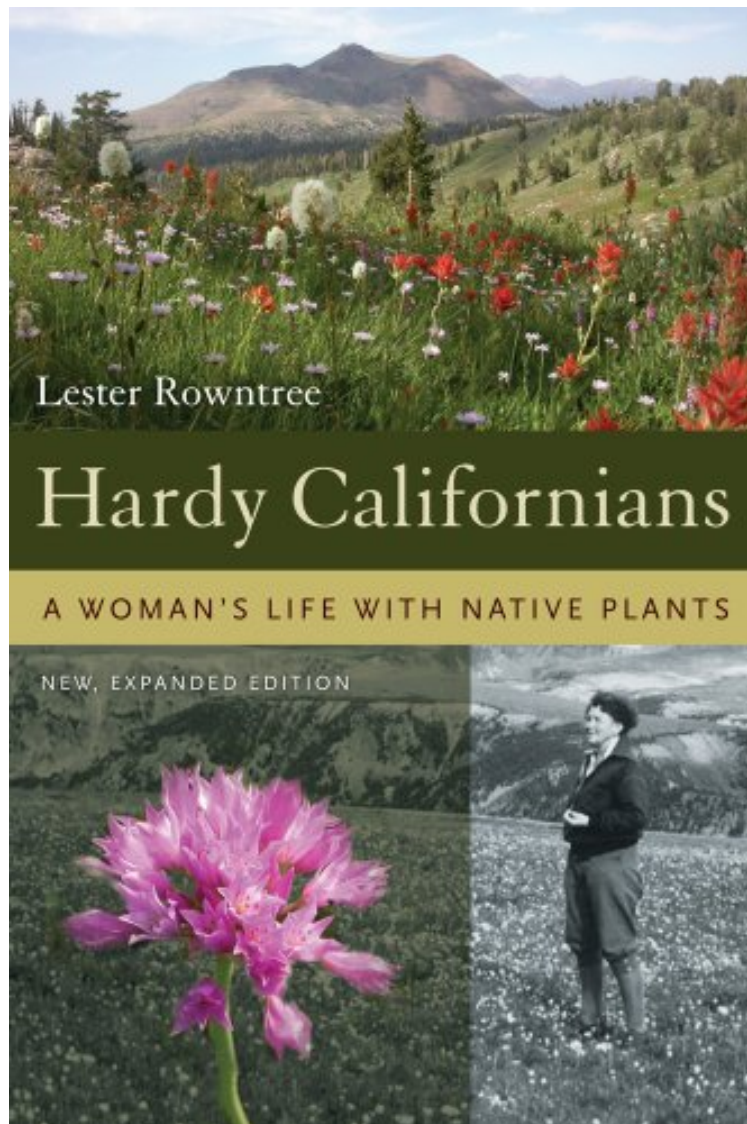


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Hardy Californians: A Womans Life with Native Plants

Lester Rowntree

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journey...but since my aging body won't let me...I will be happy enough to read and re-read this extraordinary book and enjoy my own garden journey.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An essential gardening classicBy Tom FischerThis is one of the greatest--and most delightful--books ever written about North American native plants. It brims with evocative descriptions, practical advice, and humor. And it's clearly aimed at gardeners beyond the borders of California, although it should be a bible for Californian gardeners as well.This new edition comes with two engaging introductions--a biographical sketch by Rowntree's grandson, and an appreciative essay by Judith Lowry. Another useful feature is an appendix giving updated taxonomic information about the plants Rowntree mentions.This truly is one of the great classics of garden writing. Get it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. California Native Plants.... excellent !By Spirit 1 KarenI'm a Native Plant Enthusiast ; this book is a total inspiration and I'm fully enjoying Lester's spirit .. quite like my own .

Lester G. E. Rowntree (1879-1979), free-spirited adventurer and pioneering botanist, was fifty-two when she traded a comfortable home for the life of a peripatetic traveler in the California mountains, deserts, and forests. Through hundreds of magazine and journal articles, two acclaimed books, and uncounted public lectures, Rowntree shared her vast knowledge of California native plants and at the same time argued passionately for the protection of the state's bountiful flora. A mountain mystic who worshipped on Sierra peaks, bathed in alpine streams, and lived for months on beans and bread, Rowntree has remained an inspiration in native plant horticulture and plant conservation to this day.A beloved classic first published in 1936, *Hardy Californians* is Rowntree's poetic sketch of California and its plant life. In charming prose, she takes us along on her annual seed-collecting journey through the state and gives a concise introduction to the complexities of California flora, climate, and geography. The book also gives information on the suitability of many native California plants for the garden. This new edition includes a comprehensive biographical essay, a chapter on Rowntree's horticultural legacy, an updated species list, and a complete bibliography of her writings.

From the Inside Flap"Sensitively and skillfully updated and expanded, this superb new edition of Lester Rowntree's much-loved classic will quickly become a classic itself. Insightful biographical material, new photos, comprehensive bibliography, and updated plant names add context and currency to an extraordinary book."--Nora Harlow, coeditor of *Wild Lilies, Irises, and Grasses*"At last Lester Rowntree's classic book *Hardy Californians* is in print again. What a treasure this book is! Lester was a true pioneer and her annual journey, starting in the desert, heading north through the foothills, then ending in the mountains is one that every reader will want to recreate."Glenn Keator, author of *Complete Garden Guide to the Native Perennials of California*