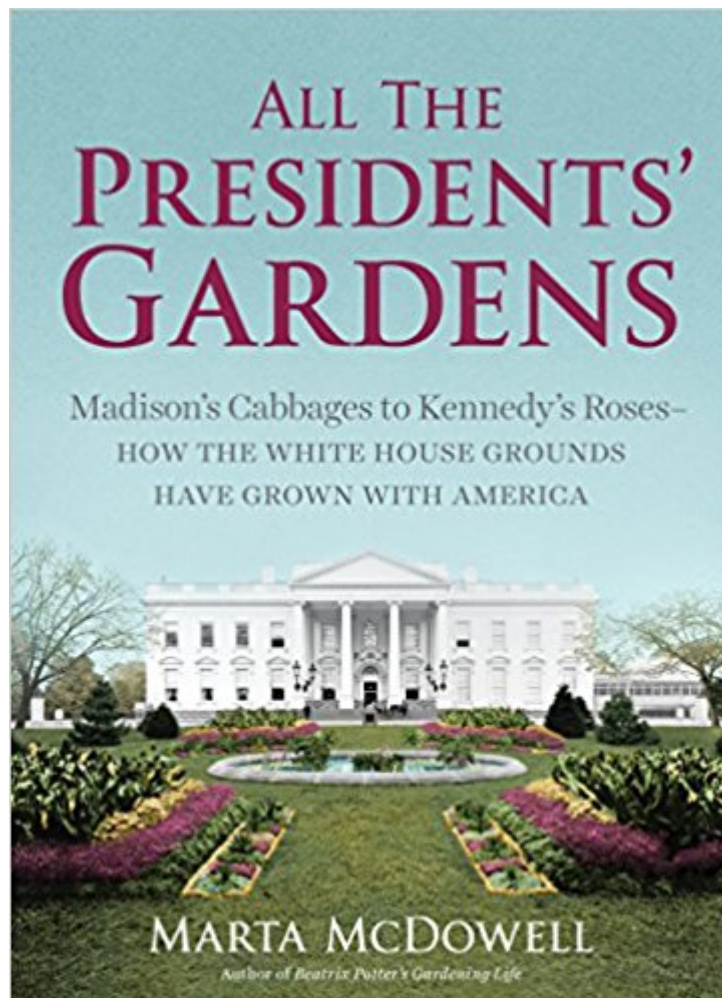




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# **All The Presidents' Gardens: Madison's Cabbages To Kennedy's Roses Roses—How The White House Grounds Have Grown With America**





## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller and AHS Book Award winner The 18-acres surrounding the White House have been an unwitting witness to history—kings and queens have dined there, bills and treaties have been signed, and presidents have landed and retreated. Throughout it all, the grounds have remained not only beautiful, but also a powerful reflection of American trends. In *All the Presidents' Gardens*—bestselling author Marta McDowell tells the untold history of the White House Grounds with historical and contemporary photographs, vintage seeds catalogs, and rare glimpses into Presidential pastimes. History buffs will revel in the fascinating tidbits about Lincoln's goats, Ike's putting green, Jackie's iconic roses, and Amy Carter's tree house. Gardeners will enjoy the information on the plants whose favor has come and gone over the years and the gardeners who have been responsible for it all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“McDowell’s entertaining look at the gardens at America’s premier residence illustrates the nation’s horticultural aspirations, trends, and history. . . . A thorough researcher, McDowell unearths little-known stories and vivid details to illuminate important personalities and provide insight into our gardening past. Often injecting wit, she explains how the White House has dealt with typical garden pests (raccoons who fish in water gardens) as well as atypical problems (e.g., helicopter winds or hosting 1,000 guests at a time). Resplendent with historical images, the work also includes plant lists and short bios of key White House gardeners. . .

. [An] informative gem of a book. *Library Journal* "History is often best learned from stories, and there are plenty of anecdotes here. . . . The writing is conversational and inviting, as one might find when visiting a garden with someone who knows it well. Photographs, line drawings, paintings, maps, and other documents add to the interesting stories. . . . a delightful and elucidating work. *Booklist* starred review "A delightful dig through White House gardens. *McDowell* plots their history from the Washington administration to the Obamas. . . . Her descriptions of the grounds and evolving garden tastes are complemented with a colorful array of illustrations. McDowell fills the book with juicy tidbits: the last cow to graze on the White House lawn (1912) was named Pauline Wayne; Herbert Hoover wanted help to seem invisible, so they hid behind hedges when he passed by."

*Publishers Weekly* "Given its timeless grace, the visitor today might think that the Rose Garden was always a part of the grounds of America's first garden, but as Marta McDowell's absorbing book drives home, the 18 acres around the executive mansion have been constantly tweaked, changed and replanted over the past two centuries. *The Washington Post* "Long may there be erudite and entertaining books like *All the Presidents' Gardens* to enlighten and educate about American garden history. *The American Gardener* "Marta's voice creates a sense of fascination within the reader. Her wit and insight shines through as she describes the White House Gardens, sometimes utilitarian and spare, and other times lush and extravagant. . . . The greatest achievement of Marta's book, though, isn't the precise documentation of the history of The First Garden, if you will, but in the way she weaves the tales of American ingenuity and preservation into it. *NYBG's Plant Talk* "A well-presented history of the White House garden, which doubles as a companion to early American garden history. *Gardens Illustrated* "This book's deeply researched material is impressive. . . . The book is a kind of TMZ of presidential horticultural history that will delight gardeners and history buffs alike. *Country Gardens* "A really fun book. . . . It's also very well-researched by author Marta McDowell and exhaustively covers every administration from George Washington to Barack Obama, complete with lists of head gardeners and plants. *Garden Rant* "Post-election rehabilitation for gardeners. *The Triangle Gardener* "Rife with well-researched anecdotes that illuminate the past as well as contemporary and historical photographs and illustrations, the book presents a fresh "nonpartisan" perspective on American life. . . . The book will be equally appealing to the horticulturalist and the history

enthusiast. **Coastal Home** "it's full of fascinating archival photos and illustrations, and the stories and each garden offer glimpses of life in America (and the White House) through history. **Houston Chronicle** "This charming, copiously illustrated book is a treasure trove for historians and horticulturalists alike. **Elle Decor** "A fascinating insight for gardeners and historians of one of the world's most famous homes. **RHS Garden Magazine** "From the moment a spade first broke ground for construction of the White House, the 18 acres of presidential gardens have served as a backdrop to history: a social commentary, fashion statement and a lesson in agriculture for the nation. **All the Presidents' Gardens** by historian Marta McDowell is U.S. history in full bloom. **California Bountiful**

Hail to the red, white, and blue and green! From the most momentous events in our nation's history to our fleeting cultural obsessions, the White House grounds have been a mirror of America. With wit and insight, garden historian Marta McDowell traces the fascinating story of how our presidents and their families have left their imprint upon the eighteen acres surrounding the executive mansion. Far more than just an account of Lincoln's goats, Ike's putting green, and Kennedy's roses, **All the Presidents' Gardens** delves into the thrilling and the heart-breaking events that have shaped our national consciousness.

This is a wonderful book filled with history and stories about gardens in the United States, presidents and their families and how the White House gardens were developed and demolished and replanted again and again as a result of all these influences. It was so interesting it left me wanting more!

If you are a history buff and/or gardener this book is a must. It is beautifully illustrated. The layout and even the quality of the paper caters to the senses. There are so many facts, all woven together in a very easy to read style.

Beautiful illustrations. Amazing amount of interesting information about the White House, the presidents and their families, the history of horticulture in the U.S. and of course, the White House gardens. Highly recommend.

This book is an excellent historical resource in my Home Library and attending the author's lecture

and getting my copy of the book personalized and autograph was AWESOME!!! Fun author to talk to!!!

using this as my book club book this month, loved the different facts about the presidents as related to the gardens

This is a nice gift--though it is more of a monograph than a coffee table book.

gives good US history, but not much on gardening

This is really a good book. I just wish it was offered in paperback so we could have used it for our county book of the year. Pictures added to the interesting text.

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