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Tree Crops: A Permanent Agriculture (A Friends Of The Land Book)



Synopsis

Tree Crops: A Permanent Agriculture, first published in 1929 and last updated in 1953 (and the edition reprinted here) is a classic, pioneering look at the use of trees for food, soil conservation, and sustainable agriculture. Author J. Russell Smith (1874-1966) travelled widely and shares his insights and research into agro-forestry, describing how trees such as carob, honey locust, persimmon, mulberry, oaks and pecans can be used to enrich the land and the people and animals dependent on it. Illustrated with over 80 pages of photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

J. Russell Smith is a member of the Northern Nut Growers' Association. More than a hundred members of the Association contributed detailed reports of their own experiments. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Pretty much a classic, if you thinking about buying this you probably already know what its about, or your into the subject. If you haven't read it I would recommend it. You can probably find it for free online if you don't mind not having a hard copy, since its so old. This leads to another problem though, its been reprinted by about 3 different companies at different price points. There isn't much difference between all the reprints. [Tree Crops: A Permanent Agriculture \(A Friends of the Land Book\)](#) [This is the one I recommend.](#)

Great book. It gave me lots of ideas. I wish more people would use his ideas.

Good primer for the permaculture movement. Arrived quickly as expected by . Thanks!

An especially great book for anyone interested in permaculture. This book is full of details and statistical information on a wide array of food bearing trees. I definitely recommend that you read this

lot of old information that is new.

This is a bit of a rarity in alternative agriculture books: well documented, evidence based assertions. While promulgating the idea that we need to move more to tree-crop supported agriculture, Smith gives average yields, processing tips, climactic considerations, cost analysis (a bit dated since it was written in 1929), and examples of success. Too often in this kind of book you read bare assertions without data. Granted, given Smith's job working for the USDA, data and examples are to be expected, but it is no less pleasing to see. The book starts with three chapters arguing for tree-based agriculture instead of our annual-plant based system. The basic idea is that constantly planting and tilling results in extracting more nutrients from the soil than can be replaced, it causes erosion, with the loss of nutrient filled topsoil into rivers and streams, and eventually, the nutrients and topsoil will be gone, and a desert results. Smith gives examples of this process from around the world. The solution, he argues in chapter three, is to plant hilly areas with trees, which limit erosion, replace nutrients, and when chosen well can provide crops as nourishing and useful as those we get from grasses. This takes about 30 pages. Pages 33 through 312 in my copy are devoted to specific examples of trees, with the cultivation techniques, expected yields, and so forth that I referred to above. Pages 313-360 give examples of farms combining multiple tree crops and their successes. Pages 360-388 discuss "the current state of research" (in 1929, remember) and the book closes with several appendices of climate conditions and crop choices. It is a masterpiece of research, literally a life's work in one volume. Highly recommended.

This is a VERY informative book. We are reading it cover to cover, and it is helping us select plantings for around our farm house. Hopefully some day soon the book will be reprinted so it is more readily available.

yes, on time. perfectly described.

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