



extraordinary leaves

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White oak (*Quercus alba*)

About the authors:

Stephen Green-Armytage's previous books, *Extraordinary Pheasants*, *Extraordinary Pigeons*, and *Extraordinary Chickens*, proved that there is much unappreciated beauty in the natural world around us. His photographs have appeared in many other books and magazines including *Sports Illustrated*, *Life*, *Fortune*, and *The Smithsonian*.

Dennis Schrader runs a major greenhouse on Long Island. A professional horticulturalist, he is a regular television guest on *Martha Stewart Living*, and frequently seen on *Today* and HGTV. Schrader is the author of *Hot Plants for Cool Climates: Gardening with Tropical Plants in Temperate Zones*.

While working on *Extraordinary Leaves...* [we] gained a new appreciation for all leaves, not just the peacocks of the plant world, but the sparrows as well.

[We] concentrated on leaves that are beautiful and interesting. The subtle details, characteristics and intricacies of simple leaves are indeed astonishing, and with the addition of some color, a few well-placed indentations or possibly some thorns or hairs, a leaf morphs into an entirely different thing.



Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)



Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)

When it comes to originality, oaks, members of the genus *Quercus*, are a perfect example of the possible diversity of margins within a single genus.



Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

Eastern Canada and the northeastern United States have become international destinations for leaf tourists due to colorful foliage...When summer's end approaches, temperatures start to drop and leaves slowly stop producing chlorophyll...With the chlorophyll gone, the other pigments—the yellows and oranges that were there but hidden throughout the whole season—are revealed on the leaves. Sometimes pigments combine and create intense colors like deep orange, burgundy-red and golden-bronze.



Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

Ferns are among the plants that have the most beautiful foliage. Their leaves come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and colors—some round, some delicate as a snowflake, and some even antler-like in appearance.



Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

While most leaves grow in a largely three-dimensional space, vines sometimes climb and spread in two dimensions, creating interesting and attractive designs.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)



A leaf's shape, venation and texture can surprise and give [one] a deeper appreciation for the unadulterated, simple beauty of the leaf itself.