

## Heritage Fruits and Vegetables

**Toby Musgrave and Clay Perry**  
Introduction by Raymond Blanc

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Many of our traditional fruit and vegetable varieties are disappearing fast: a staggering 96% vanished in the past century, a catastrophic loss of horticultural heritage but an even more worrying loss of genetic diversity. In infamous example of the seriousness of this loss was the Irish potato famine which happened because potato cultivation was a monoculture. When one plant succumbed to blight, the whole Irish crop became affected.

Fortunately, there is a resurgent interest in cultivating heritage fruits and vegetables, and this book is a timely and informative celebration of the diversity of heritage varieties. Many gardeners are beginning to discover these heritage varieties and are keen to grow them because they have a superior taste and a lengthy ripening period - in contrast to the supermarket requirements for robustness and uniform shapes.

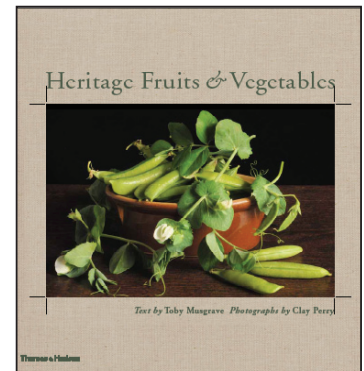
Presented season by season, Toby Musgrave provides full descriptions of each type of fruit and vegetable, including fascinating stories about their origins, development and the reception they received when introduced to new countries. The beautifully composed photographs by Clay Perry highlight the unusual colours, shapes and textures of heritage varieties in the painterly style of an Old Master still life.

The growing interest in heritage fruit and vegetables, reflected in the popularity of allotments, farmers' markets, organic food and gardening, and the Slow Food movement, will ensure that this book is prized as a glorious tribute to the food we so often take for granted.

### Author & Photographer

Toby Musgrave is a garden historian, horticulturist and the author of many books on plants and gardening, including *The Head Gardeners* and *Cottage Gardens*. He has appeared on several radio and television programmes, including *Lost Gardens* for Channel 4, *The Great Garden Guide* for HTV and contributed to *The British Garden* for BBC R4 in 2004.

Clay Perry's photographs have appeared in numerous books and journals, including the *Sunday Times*, *Country Living*, *World of Interiors* and *Homes & Gardens*. His photographs have appeared in 14 books, and he has exhibited at a number of photographic galleries.



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