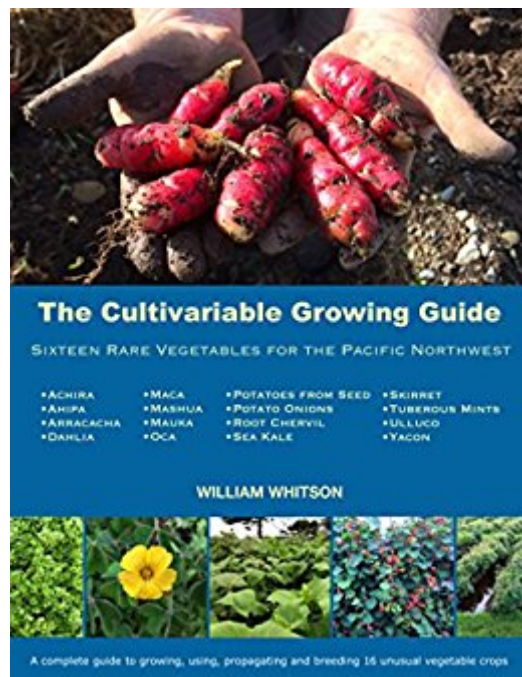




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# The Cultivariable Growing Guide: Sixteen Rare Vegetables For The Pacific Northwest



## Synopsis

One of the most rewarding parts of having your own vegetable garden is being able to grow plants that you will almost never find at the grocery store. In *The Cultivariable Growing Guide*, Cultivariable owner and plant breeder William Whitson takes you on a tour of sixteen vegetables that are rarely seen in North America. These plants thrive in the Pacific Northwest, but many of them are adaptable to other climates as well. The first half of the book discusses root and tuber crops from the Andes, often called the Lost Crops of the Incas. These ten plants, achira (*Canna edulis*), ahupa (*Pachyrhizus ahupa*), arracacha (*Aracacia xanthorrhiza*), maca (*Lepidium meyenii*), mashua (*Tropaeolum tuberosum*), mauka (*Mirabilis expansa*), oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*), potato (*Solanum* spp.), ulluco (*Ullucus tuberosus*), and yacon (*Smallanthus sonchifolius*), are diverse in form, color, and flavor and include some of the most beautiful vegetables ever to grace a plate. While potato may seem like an odd inclusion, instructions are provided for growing potatoes from true potato seed (TPS), a new experience for most vegetable gardeners, but one that is growing in popularity. The second half of the book discusses some orphan crops from around the globe, including dahlia (*Dahlia* spp.), potato onion (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*), root chervil (*Charophyllum bulbosum*), sea kale (*Crambe maritima*), skirret (*Sium sisarum*), and tuberous mints (*Stachys* spp.), including the Chinese artichoke or crosne. Complete instructions are provided for growing, using, propagating, and breeding these plants. Much of this information has never been published in a form easily accessible to American gardeners before. 163 color photographs and illustrations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you love growing unusual crops I highly recommend this book. It's really hard to find reliable growing information on the web or in print for rare or forgotten crops, and this guy really knows his stuff (I have been using his amazingly informative website as my go-to source for tubers and information for growing oca, yacon, mashua, ulluco and crosnes). I am thrilled he has published this book - although I got it for more information on things I already grow, I found myself reading about all kinds of crops I had never heard of, but now want to try. There is a tremendous amount of detail for each crop, but it's organized so you can find the information you need quickly. Even though the title says it's for the Pacific Northwest, his advice has enabled me to successfully grow in Southern California (coastal zone).

I've long had a fascination for unusual food crops, but most sources tended to be very generalized and didn't provide much practical information. When I got this book, I didn't expect too much since my climate is very different from the Pacific Northwest. As expected, I learned about many crops which can probably never be cultivated in my part of the country, but I learned a lot about why that is, and how the crops can be developed to change this. The book also covers a number of vegetables which can be grown much more widely than the Incan crops the book begins with. That was a pleasant surprise. The author has clearly put in a lot of effort, both in the garden and in the library, researching these crops, and it shows in the depth of material he presents. He loves what he does and it comes through on these pages. This is probably the best book I've read about unusual vegetables; I learned a great deal about photoperiod requirements, methods of cultivation and propagation and methods for breeding crops.

Very good information on several novel crops that are seldom grown or available in the U.S. I grew OCA in Tennessee last year using Cultivariable information despite it not being ideal for my climate. It was a hit at Christmas dinners and a new experience for all who tried it.

I downloaded this book for FREE. I DID NOT REALLY NOTICE THE TITLE BUT I WAS LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON POTATOES. I WAS VERY PLEASED WITH ALL THE INFORMATION ON TUBERS.. I ALSO LEARNED ABOUT MANY OTHER PLANTS THAT I HAVE NOT EVEN HEARD OF.very well written and very informative. Thank you again for the free book. I will always give my honest and UN BIASED REVIEW.

The pictures are beautiful and the commentary is clear. It is a beautiful book.

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