

Re: Composting manure

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- *From:* "Farm1" <please@askifyouwannaknow>
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"a_l_p" <hay_hell_pea@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

I've noticed in NZ occasionally those rather lovely garden books which seem to be put together by non-gardeners – titles usually something about fragrance in the garden or various aspects of decor! – consisting of lovely colour photos and information sourced by "research" (v loose use of term) and adapted in a hit-or-miss fashion, then the title includes "for the New Zealand gardener"! So the months may be reversed from the northern hemisphere source material, but it's anyone's guess whether the plant "ideal for the south side of a building" is a sun- or shade-lover!

Well you can usually tell from which plant is mentioned whether it's a sun or shade lover (or at least you can if you're a gardener – might be a bit of problem if you're not :-)) But I do know what you mean about those books – I have a few but I really wish they'd just left then as the original British version as I do the translations

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automatically.

If you're in NZ then check out the books by Malcolm Blackie and (I assume) his wife, Mary Blackie – they are superb and make John Seymour look like nothing more than a good yarn spinner of the "boys own manual" type. Whilst Seymour is inspirational about doing life on the land in a story telling sense of "back to the land", the Blackie's have actually done it, boots and all, and in diverse locations such as both Britian and NZ (and IIRC, also somewhere in Africa – but don't quote me on that).

Malcolm has at least one book which concentrates on the land and all aspects of it, whereas Mary's book is all about cooking the produce of the land and running a kitchen based on the land as the source – everything gets cooked except the pigs squeal.

I think these books (which they wrote in NZ) are THE best books of the genre, and that includes American, Brit and Oz books that I've seen (and I think that in 30+ years of this type of reading, not too many of escaped me).

The only writer who I think comes within a bull's roar of them for applicablity to other people who live on and off the land is a British writer called Pamela Westland – you should see the dog chewed state of my old Penguin copy of her "A Taste of the Country" – it's true digrace but I'll only part with it on my death bed. I may even leave it in my will it to Otterbot, I know she'd enjoy it. I have at least one other book by this lady but she is hard to come by given my location.