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## Gourd Book

*Charles B. Heiser*

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#4026827 in Books University of Oklahoma Press 1979-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 #File Name: 0806115246250 pages | File size: 15.Mb

**Charles B. Heiser : Gourd Book** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gourd Book:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Marilyn CharlesworthIt is more about the history of gourds but very informative on each kind of gourds, a few surprises.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful but dated information on gourdsBy James L. MillerHeiser's Gourd Book is a useful compendium of information on gourds. The sections on typology and utilization are still useful, but the section on cultural diffusion needs to be updated with the last thirty-five years of research and discoveries.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. GOURD HISTORYBy RAYSOUTHIf history of gourds is what you seek, this book is for you.Not a book that delves in to the gourd crafts per se, but a very good book.

Humankind has had a long and intimate association with gourds, and one of them, the bottle gourd, or calabash, may have been man's first cultivated plant. Although grown in the United States today primarily as ornamentals, in other parts of the world gourds have many other important uses. With charming text and stunning black-and-white photographs, The Gourd Book provides fascinating scientific information and folklore about these remarkable plants and keys for identifying species. The first part of the book deals with tree gourds, widely used as containers and for decoration; the Cucurbita gourds, including the buffalo gourd, the Turk's turban, the silver-seed gourd, and the Malabar gourd, all utilized as food, and the beautiful ornamental gourds; the loofah gourds, popular as cosmetic

sponges; minor gourds, such as the snake, wax, bitter, teasel, and hedgehog, sometimes used as food or medicine; and gourds mentioned in the Bible. The second part takes up the bottle gourd, which has been used for thousands of years. Even today this gourd is almost indispensable in many parts of the tropics, where species are used to make containers, musical instruments, and clothing, as food and medicine, and in art. The book concludes with a discussion of the gourd in folklore and myth and an appendix on growing, hybridizing, and preserving gourds for decoration. Delightfully written for general readers, this book will also appeal to botanists, anthropologists, horticulturists, and everyone interested in plants or gardening.

"The Gourd Book successfully combines the many kinds of information about gourds into one accurate, readable, well-illustrated account. . . . The most comprehensive work yet written on the subject." *Library Journal*