Gardeners on the Arabian peninsula can dig in and get back to their country’s real roots with Clive Winbow’s The Native Plants of Oman: An Introduction, and a little bit of his pioneering spirit, writes Tom Duralia

It started simply enough. He just wanted a walk to call his own. A garden to reflect some of the area’s “irresistibly real and beautiful wild flora.” A back yard with a connection to its greater surroundings, “sensitized with a sense of place.”

Eighteen years on, Muscat’s Clive Winbow has that back yard of native species, as well as the hard-earned wisdom and the incisive understanding that comes from years of trial and error experimentation, propagation, and maintaining the full tree, its leaves, flowers, fruit and seeds. He also likes the fact that it comes with years of trial and error experimentation, propagation, and maintaining the full tree, its leaves, flowers, fruit and seeds.

Winbow’s book might as well have been called an introduction to The Native Plants of the UAE. That book, published by the ENHG, contains 173 species, with 38 hailing from the Dhofar region of southern Oman, including Clivia Winbow’s native plant guide features 173 species, with 38 hailing from the Dhofar region of southern Oman, including

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