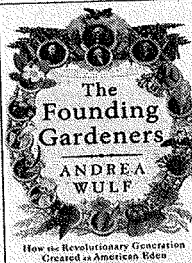


Guardian

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**The Founding Gardeners: How the Revolutionary Generation Created an American Eden**  
by Andrea Wulf  
(Windmill, £8.99)

When the founding fathers of post-revolutionary America returned to their estates after eight years of war, they set out to make gardens that were American and revolutionary - defiantly not British - and thus staging a second rebellion that was not only aesthetic and botanical but political and economic. In her engrossing book Wulf examines the gardens of four of the founding fathers (Washington, Adams, Jefferson and Madison) over a period of about 40 years, interweaving political life with events at home as each strove to express their political ideals through garden-making. When Lewis and Clark completed the first coast-to-coast survey of the continent, at a stroke the new nation had been doubled in size, and the grandeur of the landscape became an important component in America's growing sense of itself, with trees imbued with patriotic significance. Thinking back over his achievements, Jefferson included his successful introduction of upland rice to Georgia and Kentucky on the same list as the Declaration of Independence.

Katherine Swift