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Palm Springs-Style Gardening: The Complete Guide To Plants And Practices For Gorgeous Dryland Gardens



Synopsis

Despite the Coachella Valley's near tropical climate, creating gardens in this desert can be trying. Wind, heat, sand and a dozen other factors must be considered and then solved or mitigated before plants will grow. While milder parts of California grow gardens so easily that books are hardly needed, low desert gardening is a whole new world where residents need help, and lots of it. This book blends numerous areas of interest: First is the basic how-to of desert gardening: heat, soils, water and wind. Second is the exploration of Palm Springs architecture from Spanish to Mid-century modern and how outdoor gardens are made to work with these styles. Third is a detailed presentation of the plants that will thrive here under ordinary care, and are naturally adapted to the dry climates of Australia, Mexico, Africa and South America. Rather than group plants by trees, shrubs and perennials as most books are laid out, Palm Springs Gardening organizes plants according to their botanical associations and their aesthetic ones so readers go straight to the kinds of plants they find most appealing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Among the most prolific of garden writers, Maureen Mo Gilmer has published no less than fifteen books and lectures widely throughout the West. For health reasons, she and her husband moved to Palm Springs a few years ago, and, in typical Mo fashion, began to study the art and science of gardening in a desert-a different world for Northern California, which she had previously call home. The result is Palm Springs-Style Gardening, a glorious visual ramble through the plants and

gardens that characterize the desert region of the Southwest. As the subtitle of the book suggests, Gilmer focuses on plants that succeed in desert gardens and the horticultural considerations that ensure their wise use. She begins by describing those characteristics of climate and land that define the desert and constrain the selection of garden plants: the intensity of the sun, the persistence of the wind, the inescapability of the heat, the challenges of the soil, and the scarcity of water. She then discusses the major plant groups available to the desert gardener, beginning with the iconic palms, cacti, and succulents, and continuing with native plants, tropicals, staples such as bougainvillea and lantana, trees for shade, and herbaceous plants for seasonal color. Gilmer ties all the information together in the final chapter, wherein she provides guidelines for selecting plants to pair with the various architectural styles found in the desert : Spanish, mid-century modern, desert natural, Mediterranean, and tropical. Along the way, the crisp text is embellished with capsules summaries of each chapter and a series of sidebars called Mo s Tips where she shares her secrets to successful desert gardening. Palm Springs-Style Gardening is both a visual treat and a practical guide to gardening in the drier parts of the Southwest, be they desert or Mediterranean-type climates. The rationale for plant choices and design concepts will be of value to gardeners throughout the arid West. -Richard G. Turner Jr. - Pacific Horticulture. --Pacific Horticulture

Appearing weekly as the gardening guru on KMIR Ch. 6, NBC Palm Springs, Maureen Gilmer is one of California s leading horticultural experts. Over the past 25 years she has worked in all phases of horticulture from laborer to landscape architect. Her work has dominated garden book publishing with 15 titles, a nationally syndicated column Yard Smart , and frequent appearances in major magazines. She is also an established host and authority on DIY Network, a Scripps Television Network. Her colorful, useful, and informative website is MoPlants.com

Great book! I bought this book because I live in Phoenix. As hoped, it is highly applicable to my climate but with many ideas for plants I might consider using in my yard that are a little different. I am enjoying the photography, background info and care tips as well as some warnings and historical information. I like the way the book is organized using the geographic locations of the sources of various groups of plants that may be used in the desert environment, and how that affects their needs.

This is a so-so. LITTLE book with information about gardening in the desert climate here in Palm Springs. The info is strictly for total beginners. It's basically a picture book,Sad to say the photos

used are from the most average gardens in Palm Springs, Ca. We have some spectacular arid gardens in the area-but there are no pictures of them here. There are many better ,more complete books on desert gardens that cost less than this pricey book.

I recently bought a house in Las Vegas. It is hard to find garden books that are really useful there. This book provided answers to quite a few questions I had about plants that I have seen growing in LV. The book has lots of great pictures. I have never been to Palms Springs (so far) but the pictures make it look a bit more lush and tropical than LV. I really like this book, both for my interest in travel and for my interest in landscaping.

This is a wonderful book that not only provides a wealth of information on gardening in Palm Springs but is a beautiful coffee table addition. Living in Orange County and spending a lot of time in Palm Springs, I found the author's discussion of the varied climates and plant types interesting, and her photos of Palm Springs structures as backdrops for the plantings are excellent. Now I know why some of my plants make it in one place and not the other. Ms. Gilmer has created a beautiful and informative book that makes me consider living in Palm Springs and spending time in Orange County.

Although the content of the book has value, the Kindle version does not work! It jumps @ and there seems to be problems w/ it's transfer to the kindle format. As far as content, shrubs and groundcovers for the locale would have been a nice category to cover in the book as well. If it's a picture book of pretty vignettes of Palm Springs -style plants...needs more pix. If it's a horticultural tool....needs more coverage.

Great plant "Desert Gardening Guru Maureen Gilmer" has written a fantastic book here! A must have especially if you have a home here. This will be your go to landscaping resource. Must have!

Perfectly organized. Great. Resource guide in each chapter. This book is top drawer for xeric gardening. If you are planning or planting a water wise garden read this book

This is a good resource for anyone getting involved in a gardening or landscaping project in the Palm Springs area. The book discusses and educates the reader on plants which are indigenous to the area as well as imports. Good suggestions and information all-around. Obviously it does not

cover every plant in existence, but it is a good starting point. I believe that this book, in conjunction with a visit to local nurseries, will send any homeowner down the right path.

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