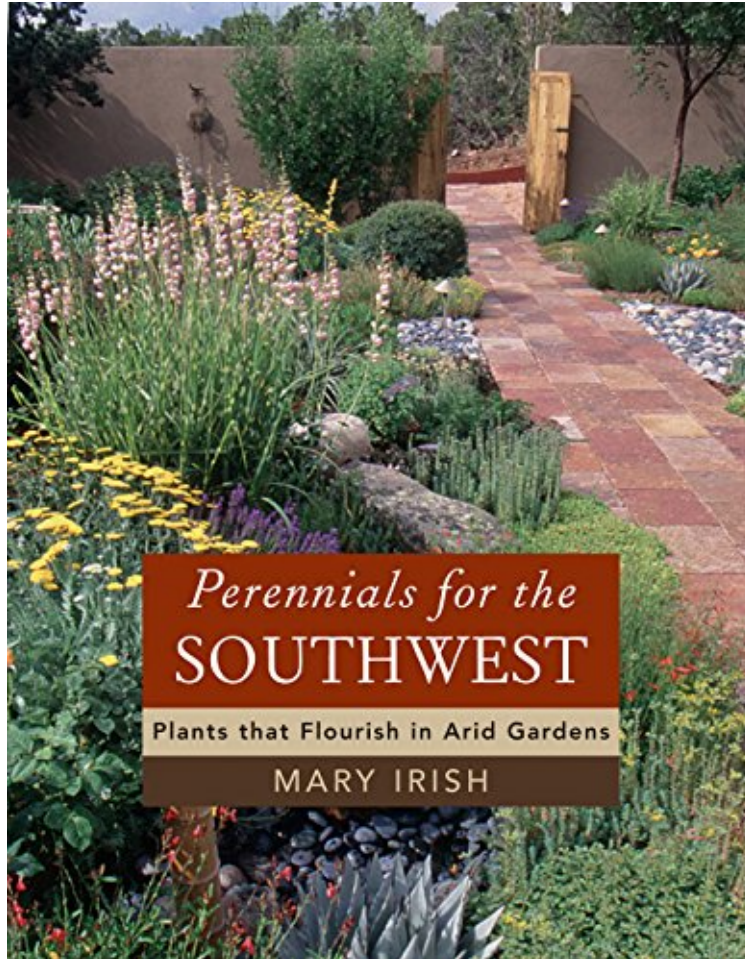


Perennials for the Southwest: Plants That Flourish in Arid Gardens

Mary Irish

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Mary Irish : Perennials for the Southwest: Plants That Flourish in Arid Gardens before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Perennials for the Southwest: Plants That Flourish in Arid Gardens:

46 of 46 people found the following review helpful. Whoa, give this book a chance!!! By Julie I feel this book deserves a much higher score for the information it contains about this under-represented area of gardening. I hate to see a book trashed for odd reasons and would like to elaborate on why I value this book. One reader has a problem with the fact that this book is not for the Four-Corners area. As one who lives in sizzling Phoenix, I can relate to the disappointment of not having books relate to my area. (So few books relate to Phoenix that it's fantastic to find a good one that does.) The description of the book in and on the cover of the book may not have adequately given away its low-desert content, but that doesn't make it a bad book. If the book had been flipped through at a book store, the buyer would have known whether the book met their needs. Buying on is a short-cut. The fact that we are giving up our ability to

peruse every page is the down side to the ease of purchase and lower prices we pay. Another reader didn't like the fact that everyone in their neighborhood had a copy of this book. Sounds like whoever recommended it was being very responsible in urging water conservation and in steering homeowners toward plants that won't die the first season they are planted. The fact that Phoenix nurseries sell plants that won't live here without excessive babying leads many people down the wrong path. Crispy plants are a disappointing phenomenon that plagues gardeners without sufficient knowledge of the locale. Of all the arguments, the one about the photos being too small is the only one that actually pertains to this book. Yes, the pictures are small. But the book is so good that I'm happy to do a "Google Images" search to see what MANY photos of a plant look like before deciding if I want it. To me, detailed information about each plant is of more value than expensive, space-consuming photos. I am a veteran in the publishing business and if the book containing this many plants accompanied by large photos, the expense of the book would be phenomenal. Buyers, give this book a chance -- and remember Google Images for an array of photos that will provide greater knowledge of any plant from ANY book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really was expecting more vegetation that could be easily taken care of in Las Vegas.

By imabusybee23 Most of the flowers featured here seem to be geared towards more traditional gardens. I really was expecting more vegetation that could be easily taken care of in Las Vegas. The most of the plants worked well for me on the front range in Colorado but I think that a lot won't take the heat of lack of water very well in the summer time here.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A desert gardening bible

By Diane G. Beatty I purchased this from a few years ago and have referred to it many times a year since then, Whenever I wish to add a new perennial I check out what Mary Irish has to say. In addition the many fine photos in the book show what the plant will look like at maturity. This book and thothers by Mary Irish are essential for successful desert gardening. Mary Irish shares her own personal experiences when she has grown the plant in her own yard or at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix where she worked for many years.

Drawing upon her vast knowledge of perennials and how they perform in the arid Southwest, Mary Irish has produced the definitive guide for gardeners who want to create lush, colorful gardens while keeping artificial irrigation to a minimum. This book will help Southwest gardeners meet the challenge of growing perennials successfully by providing inspired, practical information on how to design dry-climate gardens and an A-Z guide to 156 proven plants. Each entry includes the plant's scientific and common names, distribution, cultural needs, drought tolerance, and ornamental characteristics. Written in a clear, reader-friendly style and profusely illustrated with sparkling color photographs, this invaluable volume makes Irish's expertise available to every gardener.

This is the definitive guide for gardeners who want to create lush, colorful gardens with plants proven to thrive in an arid setting. ... Written in a clear, reader-friendly style and illustrated with sparkling color photographs, this book is a must for every gardener. -- Sadie Jo Smokey "Arizona Republic" (04/22/2006) The photos that illustrate each species ... are clear and seductive, giving each plant its chance to win our hearts. ... The book would be worth its weight in penstemon seeds if only for the list of 23 botanical Web sites, all vetted by Irish for accuracy and relevance. -- Stuart Kellogg "Victorville Daily Press" (03/31/2006) The book is designed to help you meet the challenge of choosing plants, knowing how to use them effectively and caring for them. It provides inspired, practical information on how to design dry climate gardens as well as everything you need to know about soil, planting, watering, feeding, propagating, and pests and diseases. -- Carolyn Muse Grant "Southern Nevada Home Garden" (04/01/2006) For southwestern gardeners, this book is indispensable; for the rest of us, it's a vacation to a beautiful and exotic landscape. Full of the kind of seasoned, practical information that comes from two decades of firsthand experience. -- Sharon Cohoon "Sunset" (07/01/2006) "Full of the kind of seasoned, practical information that comes from two decades of firsthand experience." -- Sharon Cohoon, Sunset, July 2006 "For southwestern gardeners, this book is indispensable; for the rest of us, it's a vacation to a beautiful and exotic landscape." -- American Gardener, May/June 2006 "With her deep Southwestern plant knowledge, personal anecdotes, and wry sense of humor, Irish is becoming the doyenne of Southwest garden writing. Full of both common and rare perennials for our region with photographs, "Perennials for the Southwest" gives both beginners and seasoned plant geeks reasons to keep reading." Scott Calhoun, Country Gardens, Fall 2006 "Full of the kind of seasoned, practical information that comes from two decades of firsthand experience." -- Sharon Cohoon, Sunset, July 2006 "For southwestern gardeners, this book is indispensable; for the rest of us, it's a vacation to a beautiful and exotic landscape." -- American Gardener, May/June 2006 "With her deep Southwestern plant knowledge, personal anecdotes, and wry sense of humor, Irish is becoming the doyenne of Southwest garden writing. Full of both common and rare perennials for our region with photographs, "Perennials for the Southwest" gives both beginners and seasoned plant geeks reasons to keep reading." Scott Calhoun, Country Gardens, Fall 2006 From the Publisher A definitive guide for gardeners in arid climates includes practical information on how to design dry-climate gardens and an A-to-Z guide of the best perennials. About the Author Mary Irish is the former director of public horticulture at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona. She has written extensively on dry-climate gardening, and is the coauthor (with her husband, Gary Irish) of Agaves, Yuccas, and Related Plants. A Texas native residing in Arizona, Mary received her master's degree in geography from Texas AM University. She is a

regular contributor to several magazines, including *Sunset*, and teaches classes on the care and culture of agaves, cacti, and other desert shrubs and perennials as well as introductory classes for beginning gardeners. She once hosted a weekly Phoenix-based radio show called *The Arizona Gardener*, and has also helped produce several television programs about gardening.