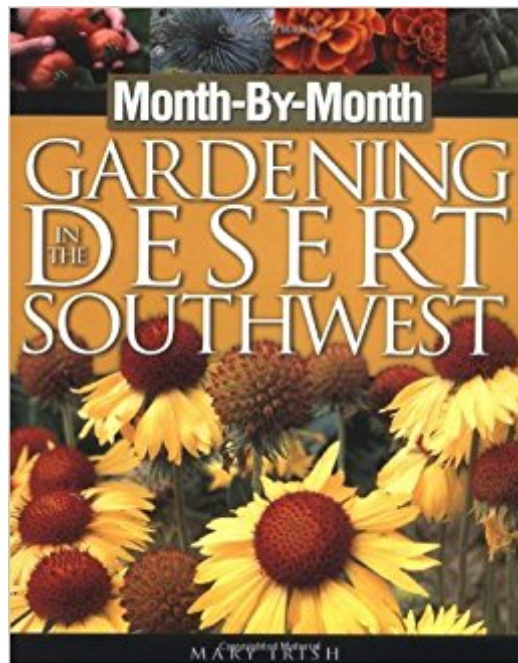




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Month-By-Month Gardening In The Desert Southwest



Synopsis

Do I prune my hydrangea in the fall or do I wait until early spring? When is it safe to put out tomatoes? Can I divide iris now? If you have ever asked yourself questions like these, "Month-by-Month Gardening in The Desert Southwest" is for you. Gardening is a journey, not a destination. The day-by-day gardening experiences - planting a few onion sets in the first warm afternoon of spring? the surprises - a purple crocus before the snow has even gone? the satisfaction - fresh green beans on the dinner table, or tomatoes, bright and red, safely in quart jars? these are the things that keep the gardener coming back year after year. "Month-by-Month Gardening in The Desert Southwest" is packed with information that explains what needs to be done and when it needs to be done in the southwestern garden. Topics include: The most effective planting techniques. How and when to prune. The best season for fertilizing your lawn. The differences between bare-root, container, and balled-and-burlapped plants. Eleven plant categories, including Annuals, Bulbs, Herbs, Vegetables, Houseplants, Lawns, Perennials, Roses, Shrubs, and Trees. Twelve monthly calendars for each plant category - 132 calendars in all! - that make it easy to find the proper gardening advice. Whatever your gardening interests or the time of year, you can take the guesswork and mystery out of gardening. You will become a more satisfied gardener? and your garden will show it!

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Customer Reviews

Mary Irish is a garden writer, lecturer and educator. She lived and worked in Arizona for 25 years

before returning in 2012 to her native Texas, where she currently manages the plant sales program at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. She is a frequent contributor to national and regional publications, including *American Gardener* and *Nursery Management*, and has written several previous regional gardening guides for Cool Springs Press. She was also a contributor to *Cool Springs Press Water-Wise Plants for the Southwest*. She and her husband Gary live in Castroville, Texas, a historic town in the South Texas plains.

I needed a couple books to supplement the gardening books I currently had. After a few searches and questions, I ended up with the "Month-by-Month Gardening in the Desert Southwest" and "Edible Landscaping in the Desert Southwest: Wheelbarrow to Plate." Both books complimented each other in that the Month-by-Month book was explicit in what to plant as each month of the desert came around, and the Edible book allowed me to work in several edible plants into my yard and garden plans - both of which I wanted. I like plants with dual purposes. I'm glad I went ahead and purchased both. Specifically to the Month-by-Month book, the only reason I didn't give it a rating of "5" is because I got caught up short by its page organization. However, after I caught on to how it's arranged - subject matter first, THEN, activities month-by-month - it was easy to reference. I guess I was expecting to pick it up in October and see everything that was available to plant for that month, but that's not how it's arranged. You find the kind of plant you want FIRST, say, TREES, then look up what month you're in. Unlike George Brookbank's book, "Desert Gardening" that is organized by the month. Still, if I had a 4 and 1/2 rating for Month-to-Month, I would have given it that rating. The pages in Month-to-Month have good pictures and the text and instructions are clear. It has wonderful botanical references with specific names for each plant, so if I went to the garden supply shop, I'd know exactly what plant I was looking for - a great help. It starts out with delineations of Regions, USDA Cold Hardiness areas, and Zone Map - a must in knowing what plants are better suited for your own particular area of the SW desert. The major sections are Basic Horticultural Practices such as getting and maintaining a healthy soil (tough in caliche), How to make compost (something we need so much in the desert), fertilizers, tools, watering (VERY important in the desert), etc. Chapter One covers Annuals; Chapter Two is on Bulbs; Corms, Rhizomes, and Tubers; Chapter Three is on Cacti, Succulents and other Desert Perennials; Chapter Four is on Fruits; Chapter Five is on Grasses (a nice surprise); Six is on Perennials; Seven is on Roses; Eight - Shrubs; Nine - Trees; Ten - Vegetables and Herbs (my main interest); and the Appendix. For example, specifically referring to the Annual listing with its common and full botanical name lists over 100 plants, and that's just the Annuals pages; so if you can't find something to plant

from this book, you're just not trying. There are lined spaces in each month of each plant section so you can make your own notes - a great idea. You can use it to keep track of what you planted each year and how it did right there in each month/plant section you used. Great, year-to-year reference. It seems whenever I flip the pages, I always have to pull up short by a heading, Helpful Hint, etc. that catches my eye. Like on page 113, the Helpful Hint is on Native Fruits - cool - prickly pear, wolfberry, mesquite pods, etc. The book also covers a little bit on interplanting and companion planting. In a final note, on the plants lists, it also states which plant is Native and which plant isn't. That's a great help on knowing what plant might acclimate better to your desert garden.

This is my go to book for gardening in the Phoenix area. Suggestions are great for Phoenix, Tucson, New Mexico and other Southwest desert area. There categories for vegetables, grasses, trees, annuals and more within each category is a month by month calendar letting you know what needs to be done in the garden, suggested planting and lots of tips. I have had my copy for years and put it out often for reminders of what needs to be done. Purchased this as a gift.

Not being a native of Phoenix, Arizona, the book was easy to understand/good instruction on a month to month basis. I've not fully emerged myself in working on my yard as I still work full-time but as soon as the cooler weather returns, I'm looking forward to digging in and starting.

I have spent several years now trying to get my backyard thriving w/plants but with low water use and a minumum amount of digging in this vexing soil. I have tried everything in garden improvements and still have not achieved what I want. It finally hit me that the only thing I absolutely needed to do was to find plants that grow in heavy clay soil that contains various amounts of caliche. If the roots can't grow through the soil then no garden. Mary Irish is a pro at dealing with these issues. This book along with a couple of others by her also have become my only garden books that I will be using this season.

I love Mary Irish's style- so easy to understand and very, very helpful. I really use the month by month information. It is very difficult to find information about gardening in the southwest. Usually, gardening books and magazines completely ignore our specialized conditions. Mary's books illustrate the vast possibilities for creating a beautiful garden.

Great book lots of good info! Bought used & only turned down pages here & there otherwise great

shape I'm very pleased

Love this book! My gardening bible for Phoenix, AZ. Bought one for my brother too!

Exactly as described, Very happy.

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