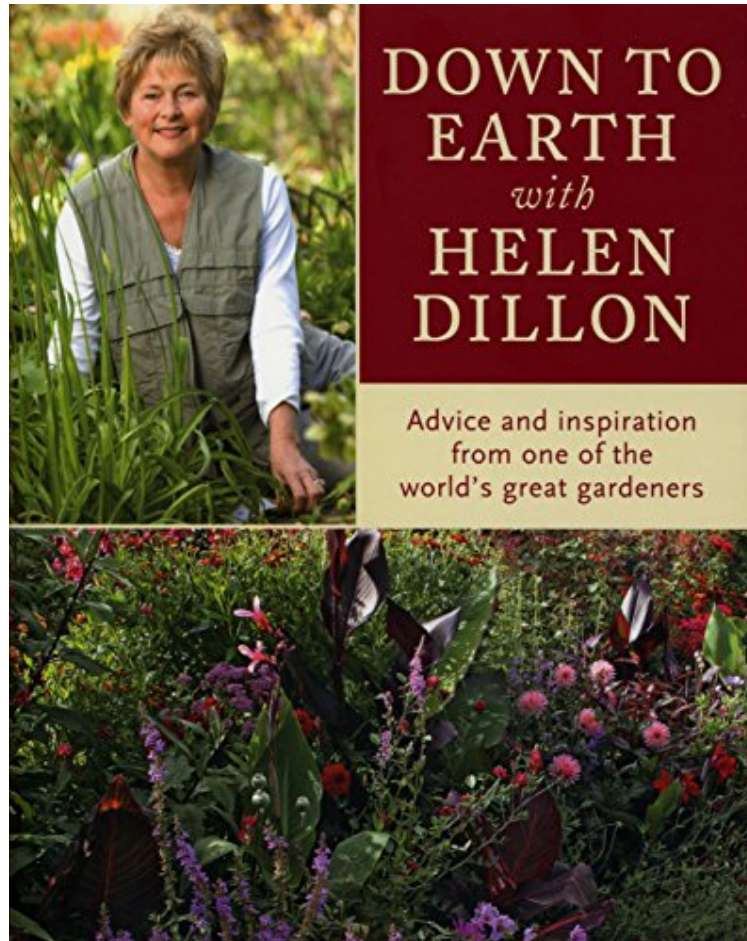


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Down to Earth With Helen Dillon

Helen Dillon

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Helen Dillon : Down to Earth With Helen Dillon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down to Earth With Helen Dillon:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An accomplished plantswoman shares her knowledgeBy Phillip O.Helen Dillon has been gardening for over thirty years in her Dublin, Ireland garden. In this book, she shares her vast experience, her hits and misses and provides indispensable advice on what she has learned over the years. Long time gardeners know that gardening is a journey and in this book, Dillon shows how hers has evolved and changed over the past three decades. The book is divided into three sections and each one features two or three page essays on various topics. Section One - "Beginner's Stuff" - has chapters on how-to-do subjects like potting a container, weeding and dealing with pests. Design aspects include the importance of pathways and selecting plants (such as "Ten Trees for a Small Garden" and "Evergreen Plants for Walls"). Section Two - "The Middle Ground" - discusses gravel gardens, roses, pruning, Mediterranean gardens, screening neighbors, clematis, etc. Section Three - "Fancy Stuff" - has chapters on exotic plants, gardening in old age, dogs in the garden, hardy orchids, and much more. These examples are just a

small sampling - overall, there are over seventy chapters. The book is generously illustrated with photos taken in Dillon's garden and most of them were taken by her so accomplished photographer should also be added to her resume. Although highly skilled, Dillon makes the reader feel at ease - she's not afraid to tell you that many plants have died in her garden ("victims" she call them) and laughs at herself for making bad decisions now and then. She is an author that gardeners can easily identify with and her book is one to joy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. lovely garden photosBy jmattsThis was fun to read -she is an entertaining lady. I learn from the photographs as much as the text sometimes and there are alot of beautiful photos. It was very nice to have plants in them all labeled too. I am in a mountainous zone 4 so some of the plants mentioned don't work for my climate but an enjoyable book just the same.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Read this book from cover to cover just for funBy luckyladydA beautifully written and informative gardening book. My favorite part of the book is that she tells us "real" gardeners look at each of their plants every day, and also, her advice to just take time to sit and look at your plants and think how lovely they are. Lovely photos and a few laughs, too.

In this book Helen Dillon encapsulates, in her inimitable witty and accessible style, her lifetime of gardening know-how, deep love of plants and assured sense of design. Here is illumination for every gardenerfrom the beginner wondering why nothing will grow in the garden of the new house to the sophisticate aiming at exquisitely subtle effects. Thoughtful ideas on garden style are underpinned by practical advice on looking after plants and careful instructions on the basics of digging, planting and propagating. Helen Dillon teaches us all how to garden, and garden well.

From Publishers WeeklyGardening from a pristine Dublin plot, droll green thumb Dillon offers equal measures of witticism and advice-both expert techniques and common sense tips-in this verdant, photo-rich guide, imbued with enough passion to inspire an all-consuming hobby. The perfect book for anyone contemplating a leap into the gardening lifestyle, Dillon is mercifully easy on newcomers (a full third is devoted to "Beginners' Stuff"), the busy ("The one-hour-a-week garden") and the brown thumb ("Why did it die?"). Dillon's organic approach to plant care will play well with the environment-savvy, and she's quick to suggest simple cures for common problems such as slugs (a saucer of beer should get rid of them). With patience and humor, Dillon covers a wide range of topics, most in two- or three-page chapters, coaching readers through pruning and "deadheading," the "May gap" and late summer, how to cadge plant cuttings from more experienced gardeners and informative asides like "Dog in the garden" ("your ideal garden dog is a male dachshund") and even some social history: "Years ago, in Ireland, high garden society only liked to spread special plants to their friends and equals." With this informative, personal and gorgeous book, it's clear Dillon considers her readers to be both. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Refreshingly outspoken, endearingly offbeat, Dillon offers advice and instruction on an eclectic array of gardening topics. . . . Like the most delightful gardens themselves, Dillons book invites the reader to pop in and out, learningand laughingalong the way.Booklist Gardening from a pristine Dublin plot, droll green thumb Dillon offers equal measures of witticism and adviceboth expert techniques and common sense tipsin this verdant, photo-rich guide, imbued with enough passion to inspire an all-consuming hobby. The perfect book for anyone contemplating a leap into the gardening lifestyle. . . .informative, personal, and gorgeous.Publishers Weekly Features witty and instructive essays by this esteemed garden maker based in Dublin.Boston Globe For people who enjoy fine writing as well as fine gardening, I heartily recommend Down to Earth With Helen Dillon. . . . When I first read Helen Dillon, who gardens in Dublin, it was one of those moments when I knew Id found a special writer who has a great touch whether shes writing about slugs or topsoil dealers.Newsday A very informative and fun-to-read book that covers the entire spectrum of gardening. It is written for the broad range of gardeners from novice to experienced, and is written in a very accessible style.Washington Gardener Dillons straightforward writing style perfectly suits her open attitude. She is funny, too, peppering her text with just the right amount of wit, be it subtle or stark. She does both to a T. In this book, readers find a voice they can follow and trust.Horticulture A delightful book for both new and experienced gardeners, full of Dillons hands-on experience. She is as generous in sharing her mistakes as her successes.Homes + Gardens Northwest Dillon keeps the details to a minimum, so you can pick it up at random, or keep it by your bedside, read a chapter in a few minutes and absorb a great deal of information. For people who like to be out in the garden (rather than just looking at one), this is a book youll want in your collection.Garden Design Online By the end I felt that I had made a new friend in gardening, and was as familiar with her garden as it is possible to be without actually visiting it in person.Social Gardener Easy to read, witty, and full of information. Dillons love of plants emerges in thoughtful ideas and practical advice.San Diego Home andGarden Lifestyles I love reading any garden writer who demonstrates wit, good humor, and brisk common sense, three traits Dillon shares with another of my favorite writers, the late Christopher Lloyd.Garden Rant Helen Dillon mixes an irresistible Irish wit with common-sense design advice and plant knowledge. . . . She describes the arc of her gardening life and the evolution of her famous Dublin garden in frank words that will appeal equally to beginning and seasoned gardeners.The Seattle Times Dillon is a true garden guru well-known in the United States as well as in Great Britain and New Zealand. . . . Her design ideas and methods

are easily transported across the ocean. Daily Hampshire Gazette Dillon's garden is truly beautiful and displayed throughout in gorgeous photographs. The book is a pleasure to leaf through. . . . Dillon brings an ease and a conversational tone to the text and she can be very funny. Winston-Salem Journal