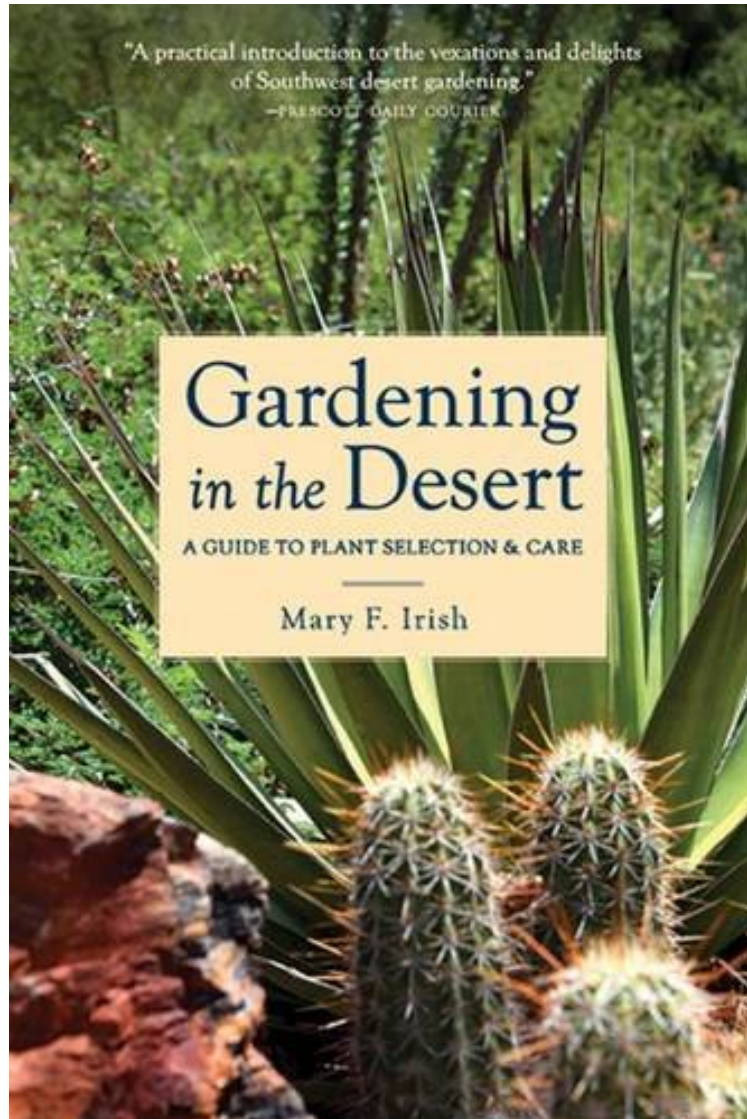


# Gardening in the Desert: A Guide to Plant Selection and Care

Mary Irish

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**Mary Irish : Gardening in the Desert: A Guide to Plant Selection and Care** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gardening in the Desert: A Guide to Plant Selection and Care:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Reading By J Sargent Enjoyable Desert Book. 21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Desert gardening made easy By David Lyman Excellent beginner's guide to desert gardening. Not surprising, bias is to low desert where she lives. An expanded version to include intermediate and high desert would be welcome, but the priciples as laid out hold throughout the Southwest. Reads well. 0 of 1 people found

the following review helpful. Interesting ProductBy Tucson BobGood product. Worth the price. If you think this might be what you're looking for today, give it a try.

Newcomers to the Southwest usually find that their favorite landscape plants aren't suited to the hot, dry climate. Many authors offer advice on adapting plants to the desert; now Mary Irish tells how gardeners can better adapt themselves to the challenge. Drawing on her experience with public horticulture in the Phoenix metropolitan area, Irish explores the vexations and delights of desert gardening. She offers practical advice on plants and gardening practices for anyone who lives in the Southwest, from El Paso to Palm Springs, Tucson to Las Vegas. Irish encourages readers who may be new to the desert or desert dwellers who may be new to gardening to stop struggling against heat, aridity, and poor soils and instead learn to use and appreciate the wonderful and well-adapted plants native to the desert. She shares information and anecdotes about trees, shrubs, perennials, agaves, cacti, and other plants that make gardening in the Southwest a unique experience, and provides further information about plants from other desert regions that will easily adapt to the Southwest. In addition to descriptions of plants, Irish also offers tips on planting, watering, pruning, and propagation. For anyone who has struggled to maintain a patch of green or blanched at their water bill after unproductive irrigation, the answer to an attractive landscape may be as close as the desert around you. And for anyone who has bought a catalog guide to desert plants and not known which to choose, this book can set you on the right path. Mary Irish shows how to take heart in available plants of adaptable beauty in a book to enjoy while waiting for the next planting cycle.

"An excellent guide to gardening in arid conditions with alkaline soil. It is based on using plants that tolerate these conditions rather than on transplants that depend on an excess of water for survival. . . . The author remarks that desert gardens tend to veer between two extremes an attempt to re-create a more temperate, water-rich environment and a minimalist approach involving gravel and perhaps a lone cactus. She offers another alternative a garden based on a rich mix of plants that are naturally designed to grow under harsh desert conditions. . . . Irish's tone is helpful and informative."New Mexico Magazine