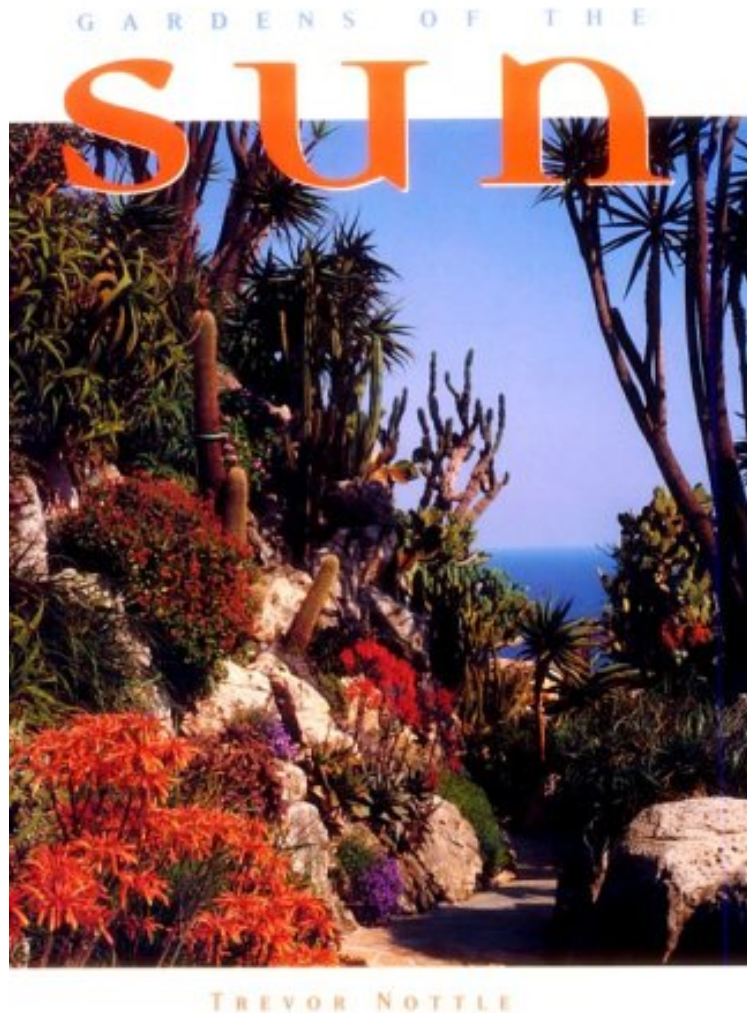


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Gardens of the Sun

Trevor Nottle

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Trevor Nottle : Gardens of the Sun before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gardens of the Sun:

Mediterranean climates such as California, with hot dry summers and mild wet winters, require a different kind of planting than classic European woodland or cottage styles. Here the author encourages thoughtful planning to create the extraordinary effects possible in sunny environments.

From Publishers Weekly What plants can tolerate three or more months of summer drought and extremes of winter rains? Nottle, who gardens in Australia, satisfactorily addresses this quandary familiar to Southern Californians and other gardeners in Mediterranean climates. He chides California gardeners who try to re-create thirsty English-style cottage gardens in their water-scarce state and then offers examples of gardening in such similar climates as South Africa, Australia and Spain to broaden American gardening philosophies and possibilities. Nottle emphasizes working with the climate and a terrain that may be a steep, rocky slope or sandy soil, described as "'hungry' and 'lean,' which are positive-sounding terms for miserable and mean." Practical, inexpensive ideas for mulching and for maximizing meager soil deposits in rocky crevices abound, as do recommendations for creating garden interest with various plant textures and contrasts of light and shade. Individual plant recommendations, and 100 color photos, are laced throughout the text. Along with popular aloes, yuccas, agaves and euphorbias, Nottle expands plant suggestions into flowering perennials, vines, shrubs and even trees. Spritely prose, lively anecdotes and colorful bits of history add to the armchair pleasures of this valuable approach. Bibliography, lists of international plant societies and seed sources are included. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist Gardens of the sun can't be planted just anywhere; Nottle describes a "Mediterranean climate" as one where the summer temperature averages about 70 degrees and the winter temperature averages about 50 degrees. The author has created three gardens of his own in the Mediterranean-like climate of Adelaide, South Australia. He gives practical advice on rainfall and wind (how much is good, how much is bad), soil, watering, pruning, and garden design; discusses the use of walls to enclose a garden, the functions of orchards and water gardens, and the uses of paving materials, such as stones and bricks; and considers the importance of shade and light. This lavish book, with 100 color photographs, is pleasurable reading for gardeners in any climate. George Cohen