

DESERT GARDENING BOOK LIST

References for desert landscaping ideas, concepts, methods & plant sources

NOTE: Any plants mentioned in these references not found on the Indian Wells Valley Water District's **Approved Plant List** may not be climatically suited for the Indian Wells Valley.

Books and Pamphlets

Many of these books are in stock or can be special ordered through the Maturango Museum. A number of these books will also be available through the Kern County Library system.

The Complete Book of Cacti & Succulents

Terry Hewitt

DK Publishing, Inc.; 1997

Features the history, cultivation, and imaginative use of more than 300 plants in step-by-step color stages.

Cool Plants for Hot Gardens:

200 Water-Smart Choices for the Southwest

Gregg Starr

Rio Nuevo Publishers; 2009

An encyclopedia of interesting and colorful plants for Southwest gardens.

The Desert Gardener's Calendar: Your Month-by-Month Guide

George Brookbank

University of AZ Press; 1997

Especially valuable for people who are new to desert living and gardening.

A Desert Gardeners Companion

Kim Nelson

Rio Nuevo Publishers; Tucson AZ; 2001

A list of month-by-month desert garden chores from a Master Gardener.

Desert Gardening Fruits & Vegetables

George Brookbank

Fisher Books

Fertilizing and watering information is especially good.

Extreme Gardening: How to Grow Organic in the Hostile Deserts

David Owens

Poco Verde Landscape; 2000

Quintessential guide to organic vegetable gardening against all odds.

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

Mary F. Irish

University of AZ Press; 2000

Many books offer advice on adapting plants to the desert; this one tells how gardeners can better adapt *themselves* to the challenge.

Gardening in the Southwest

Kathleen Norris Brenzel, Philip Edinger and the Editors of Sunset Magazine
Sunset Books; 2005
A wealth of great and do-able landscaping ideas from the *Sunset* experts.

High Desert Yards & Gardens

Lynn Ellen Doxon
University of New Mexico Press; 1999
Tips for beginning new yards and maintaining established ones, including converting lawns to Xeriscapes.

The Hot Garden: Landscape Design for the Desert Southwest

Scott Calhoun
Rio Nuevo Publishers; 2009
An informative, inspiring and witty guide to garden design in dry climates.

Landscaping with Native Plants of the Southwest

George Oxford Miller
Voyageur Press; 2007
A guide to choosing the best of the garden-worthy native plants of Arizona and New Mexico.

The Low-Water Flower Gardener: Plants for the Arid West

Eric A. Johnson and Scott Millard
Ironwood Press; 1992
Useful for both planning a garden and choosing the perfect, colorful blossoms.

Native Landscaping from El Paso to LA

Sally Wasoski with Andy Wasowski
McGraw Hill; 2000
Create a drought-tolerant, environmentally friendly, low-maintenance and affordable garden.

The New Book of Salvias: Sages for Every Garden

Betsy Clebsch
Timber Press; 2008
This amazingly varied plant - and its many brothers, sisters and cousins - is known for its pest and disease resistance, drought tolerance and gorgeous flowers.

Perennials for the Southwest: Plants That Flourish in Arid Gardens

Mary Irish
Timber Press; 2006
Doyen of desert gardening, Mary Irish shares an incredible palette of pretty perennials.

Plants for Dry Climates: How to select, Grow, and Enjoy

Mary Rose Duffield and Warren Jones;
Perseus Publishing; 2001 (revised edititon)
A classic book on desert gardening with 100's of descriptions of desert-hardy plants.

Plants for Natural Gardens: Southwesert Native and Adaptive Trees, Shrubs, Wildflowers, and Grasses

Judith Phillips

Museum of New Mexico Press; 1995

Companion book to ***Natural by Design*** concentrates on over two hundred SW nativeplants.

Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants

Judith Phillips

Museum of New Mexico Press; 1987

One of the first books to inspire gardener's in the arid west, it is still in print & very useful.

Tough Plants in a Fragile Land: Saving Our Planet, One Garden at a Time

by Fritzie von Jessen

Dorrance Publising Co.,; 2008

Trees and Shrubs for the Southwest:Woody Plants for Arid Gardens

Mary Irish

Timber Press; 2008

Another great volume from the doyen of desert gardening, this time on trees & shrubs.

Waterwise Garden Care Booklet

High Country Gardens Publications

request through www.highcountrygardens.com

Waterwise Gardening

Editors of Sunset and Sunset Books

Lane Publishing; Menlo Park; 1991

Out of print but worth searching for a library copy.