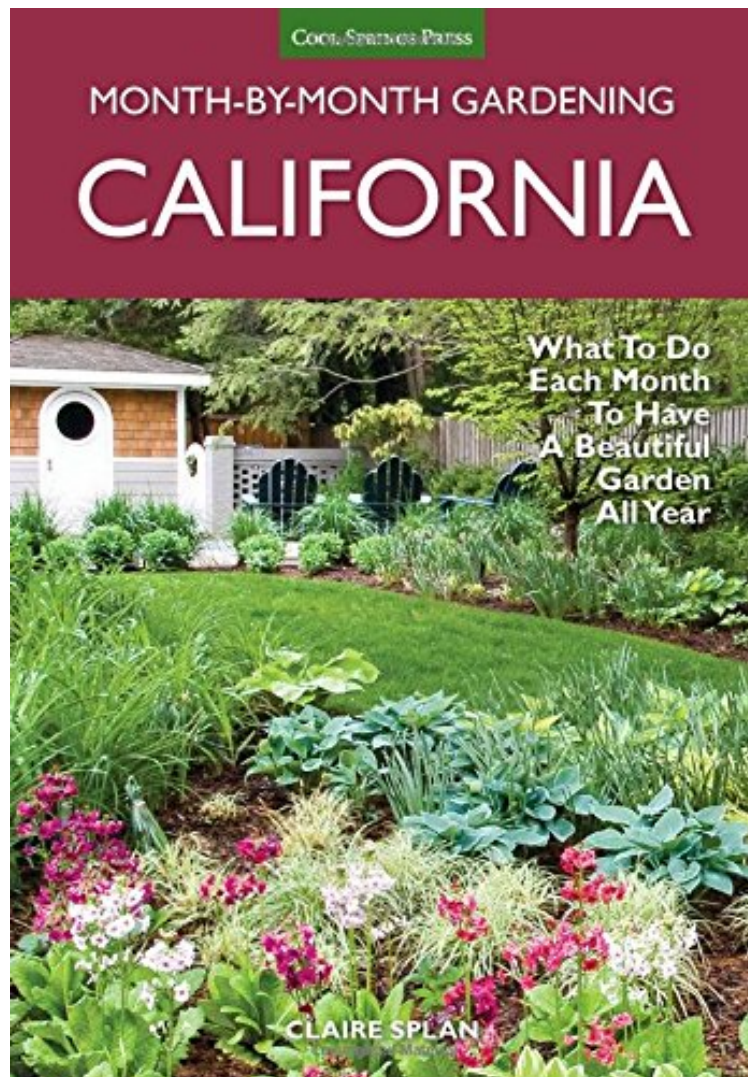


(Free download) California Month-by-Month Gardening: What to Do Each Month to Have a Beautiful Garden All Year

California Month-by-Month Gardening: What to Do Each Month to Have a Beautiful Garden All Year

Claire Splan

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Claire Splan : California Month-by-Month Gardening: What to Do Each Month to Have a Beautiful Garden All Year before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised California Month-by-Month Gardening: What to Do Each Month to Have a Beautiful Garden All Year:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extremely helpful!By CustomerSuch a helpful book. I just moved to California and have no idea about seasons, what to plant and when! This book gave me confidence to start some

gardening!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book will help you plan, organize, and create a beautiful garden!By Charlotte Bagby"California Month-By-Month Gardening: What to Do Each Month to Have a Beautiful Garden All Year" is a marvel. Every gardener novice or seasoned should have a copy. I take it with me to gardening centers and I refer to it at home all the time. Ms. Splan clearly knows her subject and the vast amount of information about gardening in general and monthly gardening in California in particular has one grabbing for a highlighter and Post-its. Just a tiny sampling: how to read a fertilizer package (i.e., the N-P-K indicators), the difference between organic nitrogen and synthetic nitrogen, basic gardening tools and how to maintain them (e.g., keep handy disinfectant wipes to clean tools, thereby avoiding the spread of bacteria onto other plants; thrust tools into a bucket of sand mixed with motor oil to keep them clean), pest control management (mechanical controls [e.g., ply slugs and snails with beer], bacterial controls [the microbial control *Bacillus thuringiensis*], and chemical controls [horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps]), growing vertical plants, finding the best tomato variety (no small feat), how to identify microclimates in your garden, and probably the most important and pressing topic for me -- soil and what you need to do to make it friable. And on and on. Tip after tip usually set off in a sidebar with explanatory photos or illustrations.The month-by-month chapters follow a clear format with the headings Plan, Plant, Care, Water, Fertilize, Problem-Solve. An organized person could create a detailed planting spreadsheet from the carefully outlined information and suggestions Splan provides for each month. I enjoyed her encouraging words (she is an engaging writer as well as gardener) at the beginning of each month. For example, if you didn't take care of your chores in January, you still have time in February to complete the tasks that should be done while plants are still dormant. Or, in June, while one is overwhelmed planting, pruning, feeding, watering, and harvesting, be sure to take time to enjoy the beauty and marvel of the garden. Or, in October, share your garden's bounty.The glossary is a bonus (e.g., bolting, taproot, graft union) and I have already ordered seeds from one of the vetted sites listed in Resources. I read the whole book cover to cover, then quickly forgot everything for the sheer volume of facts and suggestions, so I have already made good use of the index.Anyone who routinely browses the gardening and cooking sections of bookstores knows how many gardening books are published each year. "California Month-By-Month Gardening" is well worth the modest price for a comprehensive reference on gardening in all corners of the Golden State. I plan to buy several copies and give them as gifts to my fellow SF Bay Area gardener friends.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good and easy reference. New gardeners take noteBy Gold Country GrannyAs reference books go, it's better than many in that it does cover those month-by-month questions that come up. I think it's probably perfect for a not quite a novice gardener.

It may be the Golden State, but your garden can be any color you want it to be. California is already famous as one of the world's leading fruit and vegetable producers--but a glance at a valley oak or California buckwheat is just a small glimpse of the native plants the state has to offer the home gardener. Written by Alameda resident and longtime gardening journalist Claire Splan, *California Month-by-Month Gardening* is the sister manual to our *California Getting Started Garden Guide*. Inside, Splan dedicates a thoroughly detailed chapter to each month of the year, telling you what species you should consider planting, precisely when you should plant them, and how to care for them for maximum health. Within each month are recommendations for annuals, bulbs, lawns (and lawn alternatives), natives, perennials, roses, shrubs, trees, vines, and groundcovers. An introductory overview of California's microclimates and soil types, along with a primer on general gardening techniques and a color-coded USDA zone map, prepares you to make your best effort as a gardener in California. Splan's instructions go much further than just the basics, as you learn how to plan, plant, care for, water, fertilize, and troubleshoot your diverse garden spaces during every single month of the year. Fully illustrated with beautiful color photography of the "how to" steps and plants, *California Month-by-Month Gardening* keeps your garden prosperous through all types of California weather and terrain. For our full introduction to gardening in California, we also recommend companion books *California Getting Started Garden Guide* and *California Fruit Vegetable Gardening*.

"Claire Splan's *California Month-by-Month Gardening* takes the guesswork out of planting and maintenance for the state's gardeners. The book includes smart seasonal advice, such as planting sweet potatoes now for a Thanksgiving harvest."--*Sunset Magazine*, May 2015"Claire Splan has organized and scheduled all of your gardening duties into one book.... After a general introduction on soil, irrigation, tools, pests and seeds, the author begins the book in January and continues on throughout the year with thorough information on what to do in your garden. Splan wants you to find your rhythm in your garden, making the time you spend in it a pleasure instead of a series of endless chores." -- Annie Spiegelman, the Dirt Diva, Pacific SunWinner of a 2015 Silver Award of Achievement from the Garden Writers Association.About the Author Claire Splan, a freelance writer and editor, is the author of *California Month-by-Month Gardening* and *California Fruit and Vegetable Gardening*, both published by Cool Springs Press. A member of the Garden Writers Association, Claire writes about gardening on her blog, *An Alameda Garden*, and has written for several garden-related websites. Claire has done presentations on various gardening topics at the San Francisco Flower Garden Show, the UC Botanical Garden, the Los Angeles County Arboretum, the Southern California Spring Garden

Show, and numerous garden clubs and other venues; and been interviewed on radio shows such as "GardenLife," "Bob Tanem in the Garden," and "Gardening Today."