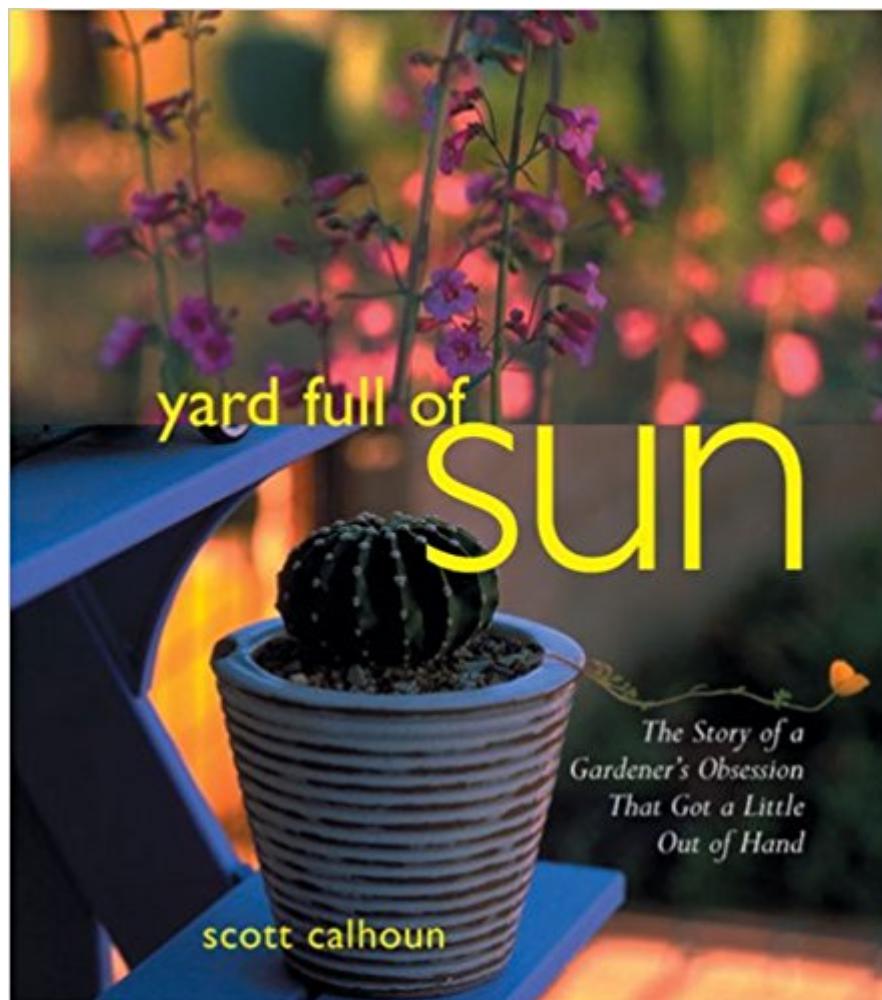




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Yard Full Of Sun: The Story Of A Gardener's Obsession That Got A Little Out Of Hand



Synopsis

In spite of living in the Sonoran Desert renowned gardening expert Scott Calhoun has created a lush and vibrant paradise in his own back yard. *Yard Full of Sun: The Story of a Gardeners Obsession That Got a Little Out of Hand* is the perfect guide to extreme gardening and shows that a little dedication can go a long way.

Book Information

Paperback: 196 pages

Publisher: Rio Nuevo Publishers (January 19, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 188789666X

ISBN-13: 978-1887896665

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #468,197 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Climate > Desert #101 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Essays #385 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Garden Design

Customer Reviews

Memoir and how-to work side by side to excellent effect in this chronicle of a family's horticultural odyssey. Calhoun "an accomplished gardener, manager of a Tucson nursery and fourth-generation Arizonian" was determined to create a garden using native plants, a space that would serve as a "response to a powerful sun moving across a big sky." Beautiful, bright photos complement the author's loving descriptions of the plants' attributes and origins. He shares the methods he and his wife used to brainstorm their garden's layout, feel and contents, and offers detailed supply lists as well. Calhoun's sometimes unorthodox methods of acquiring flora and fauna make for good copy; the prairie zinnia escapade (in which he decides to appropriate wildflowers growing across the street from a police department) is one winning example. Though detail is plentiful, from rainfall statistics to prickly pear varieties, the text maintains a balance between practical and personal. Calhoun's apparent affinity for similes adds personality; for example, "Mesquite trees are as promiscuous as a single mother of six kids with different fathers making an appearance on Jerry Springer." Though most useful for readers living in the Southwest, the book's

humor and autobiographical aspects broaden its appeal. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Calhoun makes a passionate plea for wildness and nativism in southwestern gardens while telling the story of his own garden. --A la Mode Magazine, Tim Hull
This gardener's in love with his world. Readers can't help but to fall in love with it too. --Dirt: A Garden Journal from the Connecticut River Valley, Paula Panich

I have lived in Phoenix for 25 years. I have a large lot and little success in landscaping. If it looked good it took too much time to maintain and my water bills were sky high. What to do? After 6 weeks in a wheelchair and an irrigation failure I happened on Scott Calhoun's book. He has so many new and practical ideas that will produce a good looking landscape and not be a slave to it. Living in Tucson, he is very savvy about conserving water more than we are in Phoenix. He talks about harvesting water and grading a property to better direct rainfall to planting beds. New ideas for me. I am really quite excited about the opportunities that I recognize now from reading this book. Oh and if that isn't enough, the book is quite beautiful. Lots of color photography. Many plant varieties are pictured. The writer generously shares his experience of learning about building a "green" home and surrounding it with a true Sonoran desert landscape. I have lots of books on desert gardening and they all have merit. This is the first one that has given me a new insight into where I live and my responsibility to the ecology of my spot in the desert. A true inspiration to me.

Great read. I'm a newcomer to Arizona (from Philadelphia) and knew nothing at all at southwest gardening. The narrative moved smartly along, but I learned a lot about the most common species to use in my garden. Especially have come to appreciate the sculptural beauty of Agaves.

I didn't think I would enjoy a "story" of a gardener in the Southwest but the author is so entertaining in his writing. I could relate to so many aspects of working in my yard in the hot Arizona desert. His ideas are creative and refreshing and just a joy to read through. Lots of very useful information also and I am hooked on this author. Thanks for writing this "feel good, factual book".

I discovered Scott Calhoun online when I began designing my own southwest landscape. To read his book is to gain insight into his design process. He addresses the challenges and joys of gardening in a hot, arid climate with candor, humor and helpful information.

wonderful description of Arizona which I knew nothing about. It was funny, educational and a real page turner.

This ardent, dedicated Tucson gardener gives insight into how he established a garden in a demanding area. He chronicles successes and failures, and has amusing stories about adapting to native wildlife. Great read for any gardener, especially those in desert climates.

This book makes you happy. People dedicated to and living with the environment. They are studying what is around them and bring it into their home. Nothing like green lawns and roses. Easy living in style. I live in the South of Tenerife, Spain and I am trying to do the same, much to the surprise of my local neighbours :-)

There is some overlap with his subsequently published "The Hot Garden" this is a personal story. It feels like you are having a conversation with a friend who happens to be very good at garden design and is sharing his knowledge with you. Especially good discussion of outdoor living spaces.

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