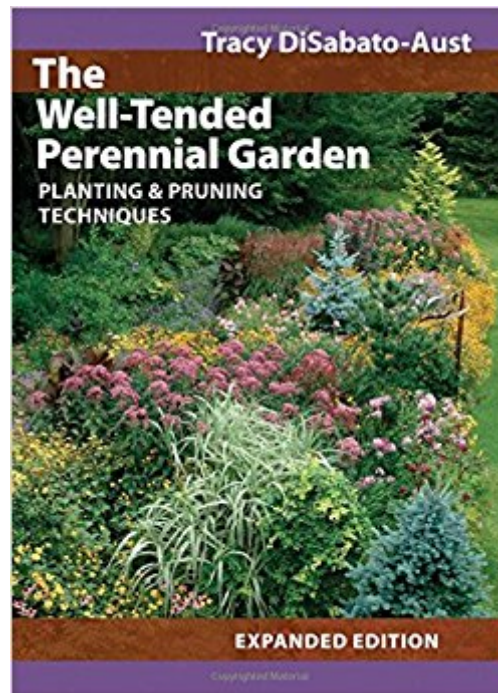




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# The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting And Pruning Techniques



## Synopsis

With more than 130,000 copies sold since its original publication, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* has proven itself to be one of the most useful tools a gardener can have. Now, in this expanded edition, there's even more to learn from and enjoy. This is the first, and still the most thorough, book to detail essential practices of perennial care such as deadheading, pinching, cutting back, thinning, disbudding, and deadleafing, all of which are thoroughly explained and illustrated. More than 200 new color photographs have been added to this revised edition, showing perennials in various border situations and providing images for each of the entries in the A-to-Z encyclopedia of important perennial species. In addition, there is a new 32-page journal section, in which you can enter details, notes, and observations about the requirements and performance of perennials in your own garden. Thousands of readers have commented that *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* is one of the most useful and frequently consulted books in their gardening libraries. This new, expanded edition promises to be an even more effective ally in your quest to create a beautiful, healthy, well-maintained perennial garden.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

âœ Perfect for the entry-level gardener, this practical guide is lush with clear, step-by-step advice for good growing.â•Â âœ Real Simple âœ An excellent resource for planting and maintaining perennial gardens. . . . Will serve novice and experienced gardeners alike. . . . The piÃ“ce de rÃ©sistance is an A-to-Z encyclopedia of perennial species, their bloom times and maintenance

needs, which, alone, makes this the one book you should keep handy to consult throughout the year. • "Newsday • A practical book filled with the details of how to care for perennials. . . . Perhaps the most useful section is that of lengthy lists in the back that help you determine which perennials you do and don't want to grow, depending on your tolerance for maintenance and where you live, and which perennials are deer-resistant, have seedheads that attract song birds, are short-lived, need deadheading or lots of other categories thought up by this walking encyclopedia of a perennial expert. • "The Seattle Times • Number one on my list of must-read gardening books because it takes the mystery out of how to become a first-class perennial gardener. • "Detroit News • Perfect for beginning gardeners and considered the perennial bible for professionals and educated maintenance crews. . . . This completely revised and expanded edition has updated photos and even more information on not just which perennials to plant but how to prune, feed, divide and maintain them as well. • "The Daily News • A really helpful book. • "Daily Telegraph • The best book about growing perennials. Ms. DiSabato-Aust does an excellent job of describing the information needed to have a beautiful, healthy perennial garden. • "Newport Daily News • Should be for gardeners what Joy of Cooking is for cooks: every new gardener gets a copy and learns from it over a lifetime. • "Plants and Gardens News • Well worth revisiting, with more than 200 new photos and a 32-page journal section in which you can enter details, notes, and observations about the requirements and performances of perennials in your own garden. • "Cleveland Plain Dealer • The must-have book on perennial care, species-by-species. • "Buffalo News • An excellent book that details when and how to transplant/divide perennials. • "Harrisburg Patriot-News • Well worth the read, this is a good book for anyone who has a perennial garden or anyone thinking of installing one. • "Seacoast Home and Garden magazine

With more than 130,000 copies sold since the original publication, The Well-Tended Perennial Garden has proven itself to be one of the most useful tools a gardener can have. In this expanded edition more than 200 color photographs have been added, along with a 32-page journal section with room to enter details, notes, and observations about your own garden.

A primary resource on planting and caring for perennial plants; it is a valuable resource for a master gardener--a master gardener suggested it to me!--but it is at a level accessible to the average individual. DiSabato-Aust is one of the leading authorities in this area.

This book is amazing! A comprehensive, interesting, well-written manual on how to take care of many plants. Lovely pictures. A wonderful reference! The author gives practical, honest information based on her own gardening experience. There are a few chapters of overview, then each plant is discussed individually. I have recommended it to all my gardening friends, who also love it.

This was recommended to me as an absolute "must have" for a beginner gardener and I agree. The format is excellent and is beautifully designed to provide as much or as little information as you need. It isn't necessary to sit down and read cover to cover (although it can be enjoyed that way). It has all the information you need to take care of a garden throughout the seasons in an approachable fashion. It addresses soil prep, planting, pruning, pest control, etc. I recently purchased a home with an extensive garden and far more plants in a different zone than I had previously. This book is a great guide to help me with a daunting task; rejuvenate a neglected garden and bring it back to health after a couple of years of drought. Time will tell whether it will turn me into a proficient gardener or whether the garden will show results. Stay tuned...

Recommended to me by a master gardener, this book has proven a valuable resource that is easy to dip into for quick advice or direction or to settle back and learn much more about technique or approach. I find it most useful for resolving issues with individual plants. And I love the author's candor--"this plant is a dog and should be avoided" had me laughing as I ran to my garden to dig up a plant I bought because I liked its leaf and then found it invasive.

Greatif

This book has taught me many things I did not know about cutting back perennials, methods for avoiding staking, and producing healthy foliage throughout the season. The book is organized with general information followed by an alphabetical list of hundreds of plants. They are listed by their Latin name but are cross-referenced with their common name in the index. Each description includes the zone, common name, family, description, size, exposure, and flowering period. The description is especially useful if searching for a specific cultivar, especially because the author recommends different pruning techniques for various cultivars. She also indicates good plants for "beginner" gardeners as well as what she terms "high maintenance plants" and indicates methods for creating a successful garden before anything is even planted. At the end of the book she offers a valuable schedule for the growing season. This book is different from most pruning books in that it

only discusses plants, no trees or shrubs. The photographs are not of glorious gardens to make one drool, they are more illustrative of pruning techniques. A wonderful book, my garden is already the better for it.

Full of information, with an easy writing style, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* looks to be a perfect reference book for the more than casual gardener. Much of the focus of the book is on pruning and pinching perennials so they can look their best for the whole season-not just a couple of weeks. I bought this book in mid to late summer, when spent perennials were looking kind of droopy so the next growing season will be the best measure of the author's advice. She has also addressed the problem of managing bloom periods-in particular for those of us who spend part of the growing season away from the garden. Being an optimist, I gave this book five stars-However garden reference books obviously need more time to judge accurately. I can hardly wait to see the results of the author's techniques-next summer!

There are four things that set this book apart from other books on perennials. The first is that this book emphasizes pruning which is unusual and valuable. The second is a discussion of planting and maintenance that is loaded with the author's experience and pictures of her OWN work. Third, the plant encyclopedia gives cultural information that goes beyond the basics of soil type, zone, and exposure. Fourth, near the back of the book there is a set of pages that serves as a journal for the gardener where he/she can record the pruning and general maintenance that he/she has given to individual plants. The only thing I can say about this feature is, "Bravo, Tracy," and in the next edition include a pad of these pages! Other than being a bit on the hefty side, this book is perfect.

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