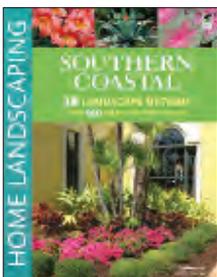


Regional Gardening Guides

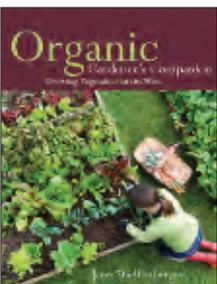
EACH YEAR, there's a fresh crop of books on gardening in various regions of the United States. Some aim to give a general overview of best practices for a particular state or region, while others focus on a particular plant group such as natives or edibles, or specific aspects of gardening such as design or sustainability. Here's a sampling of some that have recently crossed our desks.



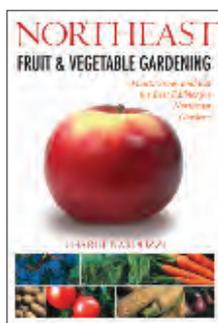
A Time to Plant (Gibbs Smith, 2011, \$40) is a guide to garden living, Southern-style. Landscape designer James T. Farmer III invites readers into his world of “all things Southern, a culture heavily influenced by gardening and the land,” through colorful photographs and prose. While the author draws from his own experiences growing up in the Deep South, many of the ideas for planning, planting, harvesting, and decorating are applicable anywhere.



Creative Homeowner offers a line of regional books on the practical aspects of landscaping. The newest addition is *Southern Coastal Home Landscaping* (2011, \$16.95) by Stephen and Kristin Pategas. Covering the Gulf states from Texas to Florida on up the coast to South Carolina, it includes designs, plant profiles, and a “how-to” section for projects such as laying a patio, soil preparation, and problem-solving. In 2011, third editions of the Northwest and Texas versions also were released.



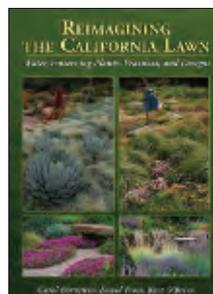
On the edible gardening front are several new books, including *Organic Gardener's Companion: Growing Vegetables in the West* (Fulcrum, 2012, \$24.95) by Jane Shellenberger, aimed at the semiarid, high-altitude regions of the Rocky Mountains and West. *Backyard Bounty* (New Society Publishers, 2011, \$24.95) by Linda Gilkerson is the “complete guide to year-round organic gardening in the Pacific Northwest.” And for those living in the Great Plains or the Canadian prairies, there's *Edible Plants for Prairie Gardens* by June Flanagan (Fifth House Publishers, 2011, \$19.95).



Cool Springs Press produces numerous books that focus on gardening in various states or regions. This spring, it launched a new “*Fruit & Vegetable Gardening*” series with the release of the Northeast, Texas, and California editions. Priced at \$22.99, these guides are written by experts in their respective locations, who provide insider advice about soil, climate, plants, and more. Inspirational and informative color photographs, graphs, charts, and sidebars complete the package.



Native plants have been receiving a lot of interest these days. *The Midwestern Native Garden* (Ohio University Press, 2011, \$26.95) by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz takes an encyclopedic approach to providing native alternatives to non-native plants that are commonly grown in the region. *California Native Gardening* (University of California Press, 2012, \$29.95) by Helen Popper guides the reader month-by-month through caring for and enjoying species native to the Golden State.



Love lawns but wish they weren't so high-maintenance and resource-hogging? *Reimagining the California Lawn* (Cachuma Press, 2011, \$27.95) by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien offers a solution in the form of water-conserving plants, designs, and practices that provide more sustainable alternatives to the traditional turfgrass lawn. Plenty of color photographs illustrate design concepts and show off suggested plants.

—Viveka Neveln, Associate Editor