



MOUNTAIN

When gardening chores wind down during the fall and winter months, what better way to start planning for the next growing season than with a new book?

- *How to Get Started in Rocky Mountain Gardening* (Cool Springs Press, 2005), part of the First Garden series, recognizes that "all gardening is regional." Written in the conversational style of gardening expert Rob Proctor, it's an introduction to the basics of gardening, with specifics for the Rocky Mountain region. Beautiful color photography complements the detailed information about plants for our region. The book is chock-full of Proctor's practical suggestions and entertaining anecdotes.

- *Colorado Wildscapes: Bringing Conservation Home* (Westcliffe Publishers, 2005) is a slender Audubon Colorado book filled with inspirational tips and how-to basics to help gardeners conserve and enjoy natural habitats throughout the region. The book identifies five wildscape regions and lists native plants that are wildlife-friendly for each area. "Habitat Hero" stories illustrate wildscaping successes in various towns and cities, motivating backyard gardeners to follow environmentally safe practices on a small scale.

- *Rocky Mountain Garden Survival Guide* by Susan J. Tweit (Fulcrum Publishing, 2004) is a timely, pocket-size handbook with expert advice on topics from the region's climate zones and soil types to coping with the challenges of weather, weeds, and pests. It also gives tips for surviving our drought conditions.

Contributed by Paula Yantorno, who is an avid gardener living in Denver.

NORTHWEST

For many years, Northwest gardeners had to settle for books written by British or East Coast authors. Because our climate is uniquely moderate in coastal areas yet arid on its eastern side, the recent crop of books written for our corner of the country is well worth adding to your library:

- *Trees of Seattle, Second Edition*, by Arthur Lee Jacobson (2006; order from www.arthurleej.com) chronicles Seattle's green canopy, which is Jacobson's life work. With this book—full of facts, photos, and tree lore—in hand, you can roam the city finding the most impressive specimens of hundreds of various trees, or use the book to determine which trees are most gardenworthy.

- *Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* by Russell Link (University of Washington Press, 2004) looks at how living close to nature is both inspiration and curse for gardeners. Link is an urban wildlife biologist who offers humane advice on how to co-exist with the animals who share our world, from snakes to deer, bats to bunnies.

- *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Second Edition*, by Arthur R. Kruckeberg (University of Washington Press, 1997) is the bible on how best to use our richly abundant native flora in our Northwest gardens.

Contributed by Valerie Easton, who writes a weekly garden column for The Seattle Times.

SOUTHWEST

Because growing conditions in the Southwest differ greatly from the rest of the country, gardeners here are justifiably weary of gardening books from outside the region. Thankfully, the number of fine regional titles keeps expanding.

- Mary Irish's new book, *Perennials for the Southwest* (Timber Press, 2006), is a shining example of the genre. With her deep Southwestern plant knowledge, personal anecdotes, and wry sense of humor, Irish is becoming the doyenne of Southwest garden writing. Full of both common and rare perennials for our region with photographs, *Perennials for the Southwest* gives both beginners and seasoned plant geeks reasons to keep reading.

- For a hardworking guide to our native plants, I prefer Judy Mielke's *Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes* (University of Texas Press, 1993). This enduring reference, which has been in print since 1993, still stands as the most authoritative and useful guide to our local flora for the region's gardeners. In my own landscape design practice, I keep one copy on my dashboard and one copy on my desk—both have broken spines from years of pleasurable use.

Contributed by Scott Calhoun, a garden designer and freelance writer living in Tucson. ■

Our pick for a book that is helpful to gardeners in any region is the *Ortho Home Gardener's Problem Solver* (Meredith Books, 2004). Excellent photos and clear descriptions help gardeners diagnose disease symptoms and pest problems, identify common weeds, and find solutions to many plant problems.

