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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SHARING
SECRETS

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“What are some of your favorite garden-related books and why?”

Sunset Western Garden Book – Kathleen Norris Brenzel, editor (Sunset Publishing Corp., 2001).
One of two essential books for gardening in Southern California.

Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens – Joan Citron, editor (Southern California Horticultural Society, 2000).
The other essential book for gardening in Southern California.

Guide to the Aloes of South Africa – Ben-Erik Van Wyk and Gideon Smith (Briza Publications, 2003).
Good information on many species of aloes. Over 400 color photographs.

Agaves, Yuccas and Related Plants – Mary and Gary Irish (Timber Press, 2000).
Excellent information on provenance, description and cultural requirements. Fine color plates.

The New Book of Salvias – Betsy Clebsch (Timber Press, 2003).
Excellent descriptions and suggestions for growing salvias appropriate for California.

Japanese Maples Third Edition – J. D. Vertrees, revised and expanded by Peter Gregory (Timber Press, 2001).
Excellent resource covering over 400 cultivars. All that you need to know about these plants that are borderline for much of Southern California.

Fern Growers Manual Revised and Expanded Edition – Barbara Joe Hoshizaki and Robbin C. Moran (Timber Press, 2001).
Both technical and practical. If you need fern information, it is in this book. Includes fern-related plants also.

The Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses – John Greenlee (Michael Friedman Publishing Group, 2000, 1992).
One of the first and still one of the best resources on grasses.

The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses – Rick Darke (Timber Press, 1999).
Another excellent resource on grasses.

California Native Plants for the Garden – Carol Bornstein, David Fross and Bart O'Brien (Cachuma Press, 2005).
Great comprehensive book on natives with practical advice for using them in your garden.

Insects of the Los Angeles Basin – Charles L. Hogue (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County).
Useful for identification of insects in the garden (and home, too!).

- RC & BC

The New Garden Encyclopedia – E. L. D. Seymour, editor (Wm. H. Wise & Co., 1963-1946).

Someone gave me a used copy of the 1946 edition more than 30 years ago and to this day it stays with me. I use it all the time. It is especially strong on vegetables, design, methods and the line drawings are excellent.

Green Thoughts – Eleanor Perenyi (Random House, 1981).

A collection of garden essays that I reread nearly every summer.

- *CW*

Cultivated Plants of the World – Don Ellison (Flora Publications International, Queensland Australia, 1995).

The beautiful, color photos of each tree, shrub and climber, covered in 566 pages, are very useful for identification.

Brugmansia and Datura - Angel's Trumpets and Thorn Apples – Ulrike and Hans-Georg Preissel (Firefly Books, 2002).

A comprehensive book about this group of plants with chapters on the species and the hybrids of both genera and some wonderful pictures which are great to look at even if you're not really interested in these plants.

- *DK*

The New Royal Horticultural Society Index of Garden Plants – Mark Griffiths (Timber Press, 1994).

I mostly use this one-volume index (for a four-volume encyclopedia) and *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*.

The Encyclopedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation – W. Rodger Elliot & David L. Jones (Lothian Books, Australia).

I also like this multi-volume set and I use it at the Arboretum Library.

- *JC*

The Subtropical Garden – Jacqueline Walker (Timber Press, 1996).

Container Gardening – Paul William (DK Publishing, 2004).

How to Prune Fruit Trees – R. Sanford Martin (Martin Bio-Products, 1997).

- *SS*

A Country Year: Living the Questions – Sue Hubbell (Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin, 1999).

Eloquent, enriching and satisfying. Brought me back into the natural world and reminded me of my love for the land and its creatures. It brought me peace and restored my “live and let live” mentality.

- *RV*

2850 House & Garden Plants – Rob Herwig (Crescent Books, 1987).

I don't have many garden books but enjoy this one. Good pictures and a belief that the reader is so innocent, he or she cannot fill a water pot without instructions such as “Turn on the water faucet.

- *EM*