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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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SECRETS

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“Where do you find reliable information on plants?”

Being a native and exotic landscape designer, the FIRST book I always turn to is **California Native Plants for the Garden** by Carol, David, and Bart. For my other passion, Australian plants, I refer to my fifth edition **Australian Native Plants, Cultivation, Use in Landscaping and Propagation**. Written by John W. Wrigley and Murray Fagg. It's very informative and has fabulous photos, drawings, and description of all the plants that grow in Australia. It took some time finding, but was worth the time and price. - *MB*

Las Pilitas Nursery website (www.laspilitas.com) is a great source of information on designing with and maintaining native California plants. They have an "odd" sense of humor, but their information is accurate and encyclopedic. I also like **Pat Welsh's Southern California Gardening** as a good seasonal reference that covers a remarkable number of plants. - *LB*

Whenever I acquire a plant, I create a 3x5 index card with all the cultural information I can find, and add other pertinent data (purchase details, plant location in my garden). I include any information that came with the plant and look for even more on the grower's website.

Sunset Western Garden Book (2007) and the Society's own **Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens** (2000) are my most reliable references. For hard to find plant information, I go on-line and type the plant name in Google's search engine. When I'm stumped, I ask for advice from an expert at our meetings.

As I learn more about my plants, I add to my cards, which I group by my garden's planting areas. I even keep my "former plant" cards in case I get a replacement. The cards have become a valuable, dynamic reference source that I often go to first. - *DBG*

The Los Angeles Arboretum Library is a great resource. - *SE*

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