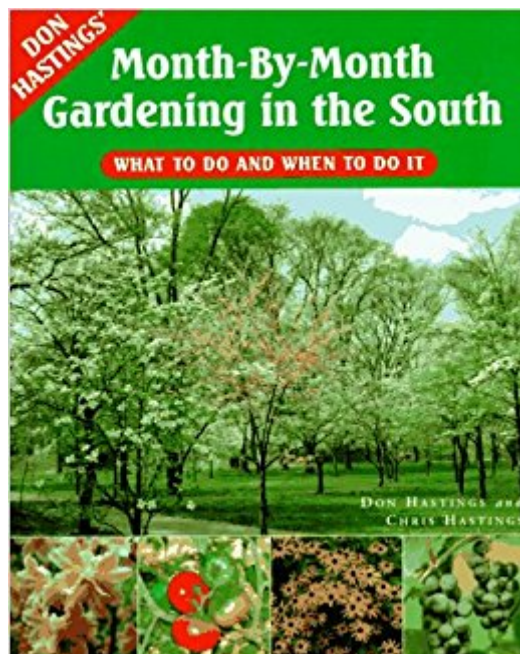




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Don Hastings' Month-By-Month Gardening In The South: What To Do And When To Do It



Synopsis

Renowned horticulturist Don Hastings and his son Chris present step-by-step instructions for year-round care of lawns, gardens, flowers, and houseplants from Virginia to Texas. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I own an embarrassingly large number of gardening books, some of them quite wonderful. But this one has quickly become my favorite, for many reasons. In it, the experience and wisdom of Don Hastings have been paired with the insights of his son, Chris, who realized that the month-by-month format would be a godsend for many gardeners, especially younger ones who are overwhelmed by books that take an encyclopedic approach. The photographs are superb (finally, I am able to recognize some of the common pests in my garden!). The advice, which is understandable and pleasant to read without being simplistic, is as useful for Northern Virginians like me as it is for those in the deep south. But I think my favorite thing about Don and Chris Hastings' book is the same thing I appreciate about my favorite cookbooks: rather than merely telling you what to do, they tell you WHY you are doing it, and explain the reasons behind each piece of advice. By sharing their understanding in this way, they help the reader to become a knowledgeable gardener rather than simply a memorizer and follower of instructions. (Plus, the book turns gardening into a year-round pleasure, rather than something you look forward to beginning in March!)

This book has twelve chapters, January through December, and each chapter is subdivided into

eight sections: Shade and Flowering Trees, Shrubs and Vines, Fruits, Roses, Flowers and Colorful Garden Plants, Vegetables, Houseplants, and Lawns. Additionally, a glossary and index in the back of the book allow you to quickly reference to specific plants and gardening procedures in the South. Highly rated by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution - a complete manual for the care and propagation of your immediate Southern outdoor environment!

Wonderful month-by-month text on what to do and how to do in all facets of gardening! Covers everything from grasses, flowers, vegetables, houseplants, shrubs and trees. A valuable guide for the Southern gardener.

Although I very much enjoy books that simply educate me about certain plants, I am not able to remember all I need to know in a regular, timely fashion. This book, with its month to month format, overcomes that by reminding me to weed-n-feed my lawn, prune my summer flowering shrubs, plant bare root roses, and spray my fruit trees -- all in one chapter entitled, "March"! Also, great reading and pictures! Along with my Southern Living Garden Problem Solver book, I don't need any other gardening books!

This is EXACTLY the book I've needed for years and didn't know about! I'm so glad to have found it. Now I know exactly when to do all my gardening tasks and HOW to do them! This book includes great month by month instructions on what a Southern gardener should be doing. It also includes fabulous instructions on how to do many tasks [like pruning!] that I really had no good idea how to do correctly. I love gardening and I'm so happy to have this book - I'm finding it exceptionally useful! This book is money well spent!

I live in Houston and often find myself frustrated by gardening advice both in books and on-line because it virtually NEVER applies to my climate. I am not a master gardener by any stretch, but I do like to keep a neat, attractive yard and to dabble in vegetable gardening on a very small scale. I immediately liked this book the minute I began flipping through it. It is organized for the entire year by month and then by type of plant (lawns, trees, shrubs, etc...), with helpful do's and don'ts sprinkled throughout. There is also a section in the back, 'Pests & Problems', devoted to harmful plant insects, etc. The book has many nice pictures and is printed on glossy pages that will stand up to moderate use. What this book is NOT: This book is not a be-all-end-all resource on everything you need to know about everything, but rather a general guide to point you in the right direction and

help you focus on the tasks appropriate for each month. Unless you possess an extensive knowledge of plants and gardening, you will probably need to supplement it with sources of information specific to the plants you have in your own yard. The only **NEGATIVE** thing I can say is that this book recommends use of dangerous chemicals for treating and fertilizing. It would have been nice if the author had included more organic and non-toxic alternatives, other than those mentioned in the section on vegetables.

This is a good general book for folks who have very little gardening experience. There isn't too much here for the experienced gardener, however. Also, the author considers the South anywhere below Maryland. This causes some timing issues with his suggestions for planting or pruning. He does take this issue into consideration with some comments on how to identify the best times for your exact area, but I don't think this will work for most folks. A better method would be to pick a central geographic point and add or subtract weeks based on your distance from there. Some good info in side bars about specific techniques.

I just recently got into gardening, and needed a starting point. This book showed me which flowers to plant and when to plant them, so far nothing has died on me.

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