

Gardening in Harris County

An Annotated Bibliography

by Phyllis Fritsch and Marianne Lyon
Harris County Master Gardeners
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All About Trees In and Around Houston, by John Foster. Swan Publishing. 1998, 93p.
ISBN 13: 978-0943629254

This book gives you what you need to know to maintain your trees if you live in or around Houston. The author offers suggestions about the best trees to plant and provides information about other high-maintenance trees.

Antique Roses for the South, by William C. Welch. Updated Paperback Edition. Taylor Trade Publishing, 2004. Paperback, 201p.
ISBN 13: 9781589791039

This new and updated edition, which includes beautiful color illustrations, is an important reference book for lovers of antique roses. Chapters include narratives on searching for old roses, landscaping with old garden roses (including lists of plants by outstanding characteristics such as fragrance, height, color, type, and hips), and using roses in floral arrangements.

Butterflies of Houston and Southeast Texas, by John and Gloria Tveten. Austin, University of Texas Press, 1996. 292 p.
ISBN: 0292780605

More than 100 species of butterflies are described and illustrated. This is a good resource for anyone, from specialist observers to the general public.

Commonsense Vegetable Gardening for the South, by William D. Adams and Thomas R. LeRoy, Taylor Publishing Company, 1995. 273p.
ISBN: 0878338764

Helpful information is given on planting and cultivating vegetables. Garden planning, growing transplants, container gardening and pest and disease control of vegetables are also covered. (*Book is out of print but can often be found through used book sources.*)

The Complete Guide to Growing Bulbs in Houston by Sally McQueen Squire, River Bend Company, 1978.
[No ISBN number]

An easy-to-read book with plenty of practical and helpful how-to instructions on planting bulbs that grow well in the Houston area. (*Book is out of print but can often be found through used book sources.*)

Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac, by Doug Welsh, Texas A&M University Press, 2007. 512p. ISBN: 158544619X

Although written for the whole state of Texas, the Houston gardener can find helpful information on topics such as fertilizing the lawn, growing fruits and vegetables, planting a perennial garden, and much more. The book also contains helpful information boxes, plant lists, charts, sidebars and tips along with colorful and instructive illustrations.

A Field Guide to Common Texas Insects, by Bastiaan M. Drees and John A. Jackman. Gulf Publishing Company, 1998. 359p. ISBN: 0877192634

A comprehensive guide to common insects found in Texas, this very handy book includes 384 color photos. The entry for each insect includes a short description of its characteristics, life cycle, habits and pest status.

A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, by the River Oaks Garden Club of Houston, Laura Hume Terrell, ed., Gulf Publishing Company, 2002. ISBN: 0884153509

Originally published more than 50 years ago, this essential book for Houston gardeners covers everything one needs to know: design, soil improvement, drainage, watering, lawns, trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, bulbs, flowers, and gardens for color, shade, fragrance, or vegetables, with special sections on azaleas, camellias, and roses. (*Book is currently out of print, although plans may be underway for a reprinting. In the meantime, copies can generally be found through used book sources.*)

The Garden Lover's Guide to Houston, by Eileen Houston. Forward by William D. Adams. Texas A&M University Press, Paper. 2007. 216p. ISBN: 1585446130

This new book is a welcome guide for all things gardening-related in and around the city of Houston. It includes lists of public gardens, garden events, farmer's markets, garden clubs, retail nurseries, volunteer opportunities and more. A map and key are included as well as retail information such as where to buy native or organic plants, bonsai, tropicals, roses, orchids, and cacti.

Gardening with Native Plants of the South, by Sally Wasowski. Taylor Publishing Company, 1994. 208p. ISBN: 0878338020

Landscape designer Sally Wasowski offers gardeners the many possibilities and advantages of "going native." More than 200 illustrations of the most familiar and easiest-to-find native plants are included.

Gardening with Nature in Texas, by Karen Breneman. Republic of Texas Press, 2002, 246p. ISBN: 1556228910

Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Karen Breneman encourages gardening with nature's elements rather than fighting against them and suggests how to incorporate native plants as well as wildlife-friendly habitats into your garden.

Growing Fruits and Nuts in the South, by William D. Adams and Thomas R. LeRoy. Taylor Publishing Company, 1992. 202p. ISBN: 0878338063

This book includes everything you need to plan and care for a home orchard, such as pest and disease control, training techniques and pruning methods. Charts, tables and illustrations make the book easy to use. (*Book is out of print but can often be found through used book sources.*)

Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas, by Mark Bowen with Mary Bowen. River Bend Company, 1998. 124p.
ISBN-10: 0940974223

Designed to help gardeners achieve ecological balance, the book recommends how to work with natural resources. Each chapter lays a foundation required to understand habitat gardening fundamentals.

Herb Gardening in Texas, by Sol Metzler, Gulf Publishing Company, Third Ed., 2006, 196p.
ISBN-10: 0884153290

This book contains beautiful color photos with details about more than 90 herbs. Techniques for harvesting, drying, and storing herbs are included along with mouth-watering recipes.

Houston Garden Book, by John Kriegel and the Editors of Houston Home and Garden Magazine. Shearer Publishing Company, Second Edition, 1991. 400p.
ISBN: 0940672553

An important resource for seasoned Houston gardeners as well as newcomers to the area, this book, containing 295 color photographs, covers basic gardening knowledge, landscaping, tropicals, greenhouses and container gardening as well as vegetables and herbs.

The Lazy Gardener's Guide, by Brenda Buest Smith. River Bend Company, 1997. 72p.

An excellent source for learning when to do what in Houston area gardens. Garden designs and plant recommendations are included. (*Book is out of print but is available on CD for \$20. Make checks payable to Brenda B. Smith, 14011 Greenranch, Houston, TX 77039.*)

Native Texas Plants, by Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasowski. Gulf Publishing Company, 2 Sub Edition, 2002. 405p.
ISBN: 0891230777

This book contains 21 landscaping design plans for regions from East Texas to El Paso and north to the Panhandle and includes information about climate and soil type as well as an extensive list of plant material..

Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast, by Mark Bowen. River Bend Publishing Company, 2003, 160p.
ISBN: 0940974304

Book includes landscape design tips, installations insights, soil fertilizer solutions, pest remedies, plant profiles, and locator guides. Bowen encourages the use of native and well adapted naturalizing plants in naturalistic design schemes.

Perennial Garden Color: Perennials, Cottage Gardens, Old Roses and Companion Plants by William C. Welch. Taylor Publishing Company, 1989. 268p.
ISBN: 0878336281

Garden topics discussed include the history of gardening, arranging perennials in the garden, and buying, planting and caring for perennials. Old garden roses and companion plants in the perennial garden are also included. (*Book is out of print but can often be found through used book sources.*)

Roses in the Southern Garden by Michael G. Shoup. Available through the Antique Rose Emporium, Brenham, TX, 2000, 176p.
ISBN: 0967821304

Chapters are devoted to vigorous climbers, mannerly climbers, large shrubs, small shrubs and specialty roses. Close-ups of the roses as well as nice pictures of the entire plant are included along with descriptive captions and sidebars.

Southern Herb Growing by Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay with Jean Hardy. (Paperback) Shearer Publishing, 1997. 196p.
ISBN-13: 978-0940672666

An important learning tool for local gardeners since its first publication more than 20 years ago, this book offers a comprehensive guide to growing more than 130 herbs in the challenging climate of the American South. It covers all the basics of propagation, cultivation, and harvesting and offers cooking tips along with 100 recipes from the original Hilltop Herb Farm.

The Southern Kitchen Garden: Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs and Flower Essentials for the Southern Cook by William D. Adams. (Paperback) Taylor Trade Publishing, 2007. 208p.
ISBN: 1589793188

As the title suggests, basic planting and growing information is given for a southern kitchen garden. Many black and white and some color photos are included along with very helpful planting charts, suggested varieties and resource information.

The Texas Flower Garden, by Kathy Huber. Gibbs Smith, Publisher. 2005, 144p.
ISBN: 1586857444

Written by Houstonian Kathy Huber, this is a good resource to anyone who is planning a garden. It offers ideas on selecting compatible plants suited to the particular conditions in your garden and explains how to place them in pleasing combinations. Tri-cut, flip pages allow you to mix and match blooms of varying heights and colors.

Wildflowers of Houston and Southeast Texas, by John and Gloria Tveten. University of Texas Press, 1997. 319p.
ISBN: 0292781512

The guide is arranged by color, with each entry tracing the history and lore of a species. At the end of each species description is a list of key identifying characteristics for a quick reference in the field.

Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro Houston, by Dr. Bob Randall, Year Round Gardening Press, 1999. 260p.
ISBN-10: 0970520700

Book provides detailed information on Dr. Randall's recommended plant varieties for our area. It also includes instructions on how to build raised beds and provides on-line sources for soils, tools, seeds, transplants and more. (*Available through Urban Harvest, 713-880-5540.*)



Gardening fact sheets are distributed by Harris County Master Gardeners, community volunteers trained in basic horticulture by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. For information about Master Gardener volunteer training classes, call Extension's Harris County office at 281.855.5600, or send an e-mail to harris@ag.tamu.edu.