



The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting Pruning Techniques

Tracy DiSabato-Aust

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With more than 180,000 copies sold since its original publication, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* has proven itself to be one of the most useful tools a gardener can have. Now, in this expanded edition, there's even more to learn from and enjoy.

This is the first, and still the most thorough, book to detail essential practices of perennial care such as deadheading, pinching, cutting back, thinning, disbudding, and deadleafing, all of which are thoroughly explained and illustrated. More than 200 new color photographs have been added to this revised edition, showing perennials in various border situations and providing images for each of the entries in the A-to-Z encyclopedia of important perennial species. In addition, there is a new 32-page journal section, in which you can enter details, notes, and observations about the requirements and performance of perennials in your own garden.

Thousands of readers have commented that *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* is one of the most useful and frequently consulted books in their gardening libraries. This new, expanded edition promises to be an even more effective ally in your quest to create a beautiful, healthy, well-maintained perennial garden.

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting Pruning Techniques Details

Date : Published July 24th 2006 by Timber Press (first published April 1st 1998)

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Author : Tracy DiSabato-Aust

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From Reader Review The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting Pruning Techniques for online ebook

Mia says

Excellent resource detailing how to make the most of your perennials, from proper planting to adjusting bloom times, shaping-up plants after blooming and mapping out the tasks involved for each plant, each season.

There are photo examples of the effectiveness of DiSabato-Aust's recommended techniques, such as pinching back the front half of a large mass of perennials such as shasta daisies to delay blooming, while allowing the back half to bloom at will, prolonging the total length of time the mass will provide color in your garden. Why didn't I think of that?

Whether you have an acre of perennial gardens to tend or just a few, The Well-Tended Perennial Garden is worthwhile and will likely lead to greater enjoyment of your garden.

Diane says

More of a gardening autobiography or an "I Love Me" book than helpful. The text and photos constantly refer to her own or clients' gardens.

Debbie says

Excellent reference for the perennial garden (how to prune plants you'd never think of shaping or pruning) - borrowed from the library but one I'll buy.

Adrienne says

Excellent book on maintenance techniques for perennials. Very little in the way of design advice but I will look for that in another book. I took the time though to read through the encyclopedia of plants at the back and take notes on the ones I have in the backyard. Supplanted my normal reading for two weeks. To me that is high praise for a gardening tome.

Nicole says

Informative nice color photos.

Lee says

If I had to choose one gardening book, this would be the one.

David Ward says

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques (Expanded Edition) by Traci DiSabato-Aust (Timber Press 2006) (635.932) is one of if not the very best books I've ever read about the design and daily care of perennial gardens. As an experienced amateur gardener, I believe that perennial gardening is equal parts art-form, back-breaking labor, and sorcery. The practical tips and advice on the regular care required of the gardener should be committed to memory and are worth the price of the book. This is an excellent excellent work and would be a favored gift for any serious gardener. My rating: 8/10, finished 1/25/14.

Trudie says

This is the only perennial gardening book a cold climate gardener needs. The author has a wealth of information that would ordinarily take a lifetime of experience to learn. (I'm a master gardener). Most other perennial books are primarily plant encyclopedias. This writer has actually gotten her hands dirty.

Karen says

Essential reference for practicing horticulturists. Geared to Midwestern US, but easily adjusted to your region by comparing seasonal events. Excellent maintenance info.

Claire says

This is a great book giving advice on how to tend perennials to extend bloom (pinching, cutting back early in the season) or to deadhead for rebloom, etc.

It is more interesting than I am making it sound. I read it once, and now use it as a reference.

False says

If you are serious about wanting to work with perennials, then this book should definitely be part of your home library. Not only does she give you a good guide to the plant, with it's Latin and common names, but

also things it can be susceptible to like water conditions, heat conditions, cold conditions, spreading, etc. She also spends a lot of time going over deadheading and pruning, etc. and showing you how to perform these tasks.

Anita Campbell says

As we go into late summer and soon to be fall, the garden starts to look a little raggedy. Despite what many people think, perennials look a lot better in the late summer or fall if you do some tending. You have to clean them up a bit as they wind down their flowering -- remove old flower stalks, trim yellowing leaves, and in some cases cut back the plant to a few inches whereupon it will send up a new flush of fresh green growth or sometimes rebloom.

If you're interested in maintaining your garden to look good at this time of year, this book is the best for telling you what to do to which plants.

Tracy DiSabato-Aust, who is from Columbus, Ohio, wrote this classic book about maintaining perennials. I heard her speak a few years ago and bought a copy (which she autographed). Since then it has become my bible. It helps that she's from Ohio. Although farther south than me, the climate is close enough that everything she suggests fits my garden well. If you're from anywhere in the Northeast, Great lakes, Mid-Atlantic or Midwest you'll find this book quite useful.

I highly recommend this book for any gardener who loves perennials, and even for the casual weekend garden who just wants a few daylilies and other common perennials to thrive and look good.

Christina says

This is a very complete guide to caring for perennial flowers. The appendixes are helpful and the pictures are beautiful.

I especially appreciate that the author has tried all the things she teaches. For example, she has experimented to see if deadheading will cause repeat blooming and tells you which plants it works on. When you read 'divide in the spring', she tells you exactly how to go about that.

Now if only I could get some time to go play in the garden ...

Nancy says

It's hard to find a gardening book that offers something new, but this one does--encouraging the gardener to tend the perennial plant throughout its life (or its attractive life, anyway). Completely no-nonsense and a great find at this time of year when pruning, dividing, and hacking things off is appropriate. This will, I am certain, join the half-dozen other gardening books that I turn to, again and again.

Julie Fischer says

After hearing such a enthusiastic lecture by Tracey DiSabato-Aust I couldn't wait to get my hands on her book. Wow! Tracy's enthusiasm for gardening gives you wonderful information on tending your perennial garden. She demonstrates garden chores in a way a novice gardener or an older gardener like myself understands. Following the chapters on garden maintenance she has a wonderful reference selection on most of the perennials you would find in a perennial garden. She closes her book with journal pages for the gardener to keep track of their garden chores completed. I wore out my first book and now have two to keep track of my work.
