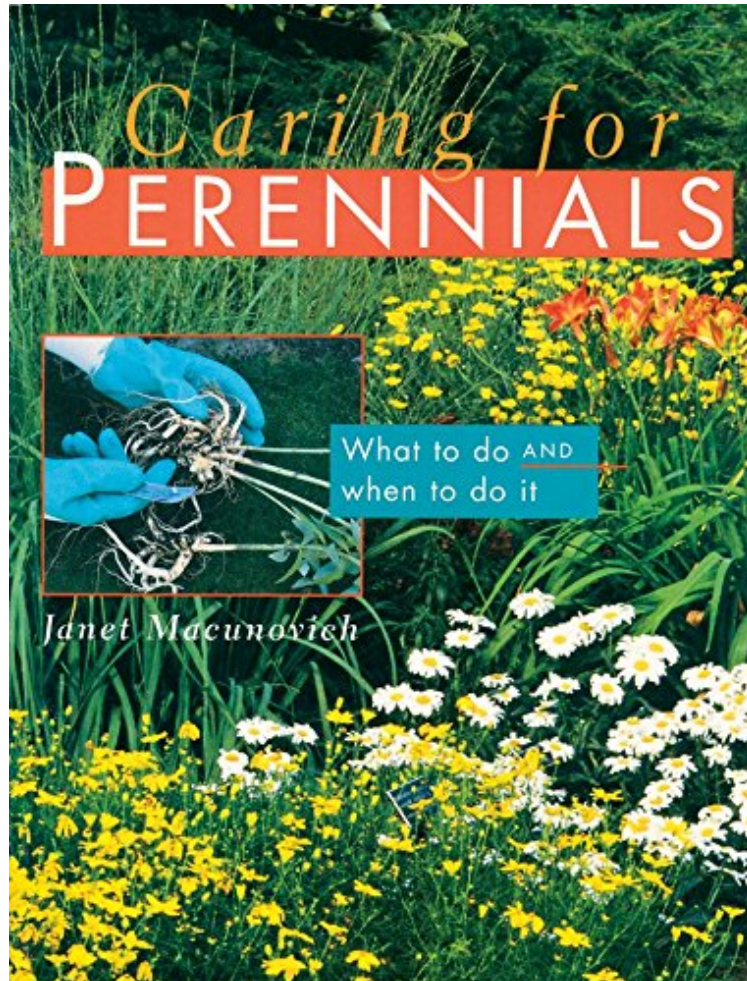


[FREE] Caring for Perennials: What to Do and When to Do it

Caring for Perennials: What to Do and When to Do it

Janet Macunovich

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Janet Macunovich : Caring for Perennials: What to Do and When to Do it before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Caring for Perennials: What to Do and When to Do it:

34 of 35 people found the following review helpful. invaluable guide for the new or unorganized gardener By Audrey Frances I bought this book because the subtitle, What to Do and When to Do It, precisely captured my state of confusion as a new gardener. I don't always know how to do a thing and just as often don't know when to do it either! The author takes us through a full year's worth of work, beginning with using a garden diagram and proceeding through finding plants and tools, pruning, weeding, mulching, watering and fertilizing, pest control, maintenance and getting ready for the next season. The book concludes with a chart of instructions for particular species of perennials, an index and a bibliography. The chart, in fitting with the emphasis of the book, instructs in each plant's proper care and is divided into months, April through November. The first chapter, kind of an overview of the year-in-gardening

approach, has many color photographs, and the rest of the book contains many line drawings to illustrate techniques. Quite nice and very helpful. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wow!!! By Duane Hurd This is a book with useful info on almost any type of plant and not just perennials. It is not only about what and when but also why and how. It's definitely a "stimulous package" that works for me. I will be Googleing gardening subjects much more fruitfully because of idea stimuli the author has given here-in. I've been gardening for 40 years and have been tempted several times to give it up because of the frustration and/or work load in my garden. From the book, I can see that my gardening maintenance schedule has caused many inefficiencies. The "when" presented appear very sound and well thought out. This book should be useful for almost any amateur gardener. Of course the beginner may be overwhelmed by the enormity of the subjects gardeners must learn. However by organizing the work/learning chronologically it may offer the least steep learning curve for most people. Good stuff - packed full of valuable information! 23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Excellent guidance for both new and experienced gardeners By Pat Langille Having gardened for over ten years, and purchased many books about perennial gardening in that time, I find myself coming back time and again to two old favorites: this book and Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Perennials. (With an occasional glance at Rodale's Insect Weed and Disease Guide when circumstances demand it!) I consider these to be the essential guides to perennial gardening, and as I write this realize I need to go through all my gardening books and sell all the others on ! :o) I agree with the other reviewers; Macunovich's detailed instructions, pictures, plant recommendations, drawings, are just invaluable help to a gardener in the midst of maintaining a perennial garden. Her method for controlling weeds is the most rational approach going. Stories about gardens that have gone wrong, how gardens change over time and need to be adjusted, tradeoffs that can be made to save time ... I can't recommend it enough!

Enjoy a spectacular perennial garden without spending endless hours toiling in the dirt. Janet Macunovich shares her time-saving gardening techniques that will have you growing thriving perennials while averaging just one hour of maintenance work per month for every 100 square feet of garden. Stressing the importance of prioritizing, planning ahead, and keeping accurate records, Macunovich provides a month-by-month schedule of the most essential garden tasks. With less time spent working in your garden, you'll have more time to spend admiring its beauty.

.com I am a lousy gardener. What I know about gardening could be summarized in a few words: "Plant something and hope for the best." Yet, I love to garden, and keep trying year after year in my tiny flowerbeds around the street trees in a sea of concrete here in San Francisco. I don't even bother to attempt planting annuals or growing things from seed, but for years I've been experimenting with perennials to see if I can find something that will survive for more than one year out there in the urban jungle. If I'd had this book years ago, I might have been successful a long time ago. For me, it's a walking tour of everything I have done wrong. For you, it can be a guidebook to doing things right from the get-go! From Booklist Part one of this book is organized by seasons and follows the maintenance schedule of a botanical garden near the author's home in Michigan. Macunovich explains how various operations fit together and how plants look and react after being treated in particular ways. She interviewed horticulturists at almost two dozen botanical gardens, gathering information on doing preventative maintenance in early spring; mulching, dividing, and moving plants in midspring; staking them in late spring; and deadheading in midsummer. There is also advice on cutting back and removing plants and planting bulbs in midautumn, and on composting in late autumn. Chapters on pruning, edging, weeding, watering, fertilizing, and pest control are followed by part two, which contains a list of 130 perennials with instructions on care. Also included are line drawings and a 24-page section of color photographs. George Cohen From the Back Cover A professional gardener's time-saving strategies for maintaining a beautiful perennial garden You can have a spectacular perennial garden with less work than you might imagine -- an average of one hour per month per 100 square feet. The secret, according to master gardener Janet Macunovich, is organization -- prioritizing, planning, and record-keeping. Her suggestions include: ON DESIGN: "Early summer is not the time to make design changes. Transplants and recruits cannot take hold and make much of a difference now that the season of most rapid growth is past. In addition, disturbances now can harm late-season bloomers." ON WEEDING: "Fall weeding is probably the biggest time-saving strategy in horticulture. My records indicate the first maintenance visit in spring can be shortened by as much as 75 percent if fall work is done thoroughly." ON DIVIDING PLANTS: "By the sixth or seventh year, most perennials need separate vacations or a soil pick-me-up. Do it before the spectacle actually becomes a worn-out memory of itself." ON TOOLS: "A five-gallon bucket may be a gardener's greatest labor-saving device. It can serve as a bucket for soaking transplants, a bag to hold small tools or debris, and a portable stool. The only drawback is that you become over-reliant on it and annoyed when your bucket disappears."