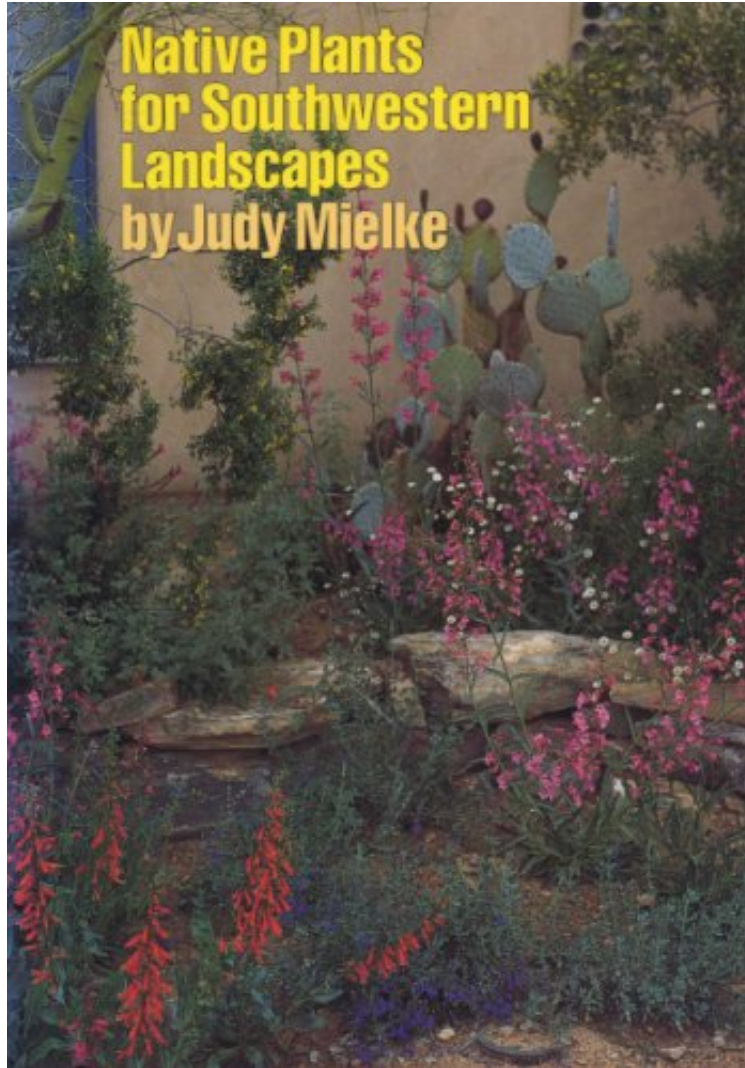


[Free] Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes

Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes

Judy Mielke

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Judy Mielke : Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book for Xeric gardeners in the Southwest. By Paul D. Johnson This is one of several books that rose to the top of the list while researching the subject of desert gardening in southern Arizona. Mielke's book turned out to be better even than expected. Very well organized, well edited, and full of useful information for our purpose (landscaping and gardening a new property in Ajo, Arizona). The book begins with very helpful general introductory material related to growing plants in the desert. It then gets into species by species accounts, organized alphabetically by species name, which is very handy. Scientific and common names for each species are given, and for each species there are terse, informative sections on: general description; native

distribution; tips on culture; and uses in the landscape. The tips on culture and uses in the landscape we found particularly useful. Each species description is paired to a color plate, and the photography is well done. There are useful appendices in the back of the book related to picking plants for particular circumstances (wildlife, for ex.), and a list of resources, plus a good bibliography and index. The book is in a format that can easily be used as a 'field guide' for nursery visits, or hiking in the desert, which is amazing considering the amount of information packed into it. Note that the term "native plants" in the title is used broadly; Mielke includes plants that are natives of three American deserts: Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan. So the range involved is extensive, from SE California to West Texas, and south into Mexico as well. Not all geographers recognize a Great Basin and Colorado Plateau desert type, but a number of the plants described in the book are native to those regions as well. However, plenty of information is provided to allow the reader to narrow down the plant choices to those most appropriate for his or her particular provenance. We are focused on low water landscaping, and it is now difficult to imagine trying to put in a xeric garden without this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very helpful.
By Mary
This is the best book I've found on Southwestern Landscape and desert plants. My Library consists of 5 desert landscaping books and I always end up with Judy's Native Plants. Thank you so very much. My original Native Plants book is getting a little on the ragged side so I ordered a new one and I ordered a second one for my yard maintenance man. Since we are mandated to cut back on water usage there is more of a demand on planting Southwestern Desert plants and their care.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Customer
great gift

For gardeners who want to conserve water, the color, fragrance, shade, and lush vegetation of a traditional garden may seem like a mirage in the desert. But such gardens can flourish when native plants grow in them. In this book, Judy Mielke, an expert on Southwestern gardening, offers the most comprehensive guide available to landscaping with native plants. Writing simply enough for beginning gardeners, while also providing ample information for landscape professionals, she presents over three hundred trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, groundcovers, wildflowers, cacti, and other native plants suited to arid landscapes. The heart of the book lies in the complete descriptions and beautiful color photographs of plants native to the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan desert regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Mielke characterizes each plant and gives detailed information on its natural habitat, its water, soil, light, temperature, and pruning requirements, and its possible uses in landscape design. In addition, Mielke includes informative discussions of desert ecology, growing instructions for native plants and wildflowers, and "how-to" ideas for revegetation of disturbed desert areas using native plants. She concludes the book with an extensive list of plants by type, including those that have specific features such as shade or fragrance. She also supplies a list of public gardens that showcase native plants.

From the Back Cover
For gardeners who want to conserve water, the color, fragrance, shade, and lush vegetation of a traditional garden may seem like a mirage in the desert. But such gardens can flourish when native desert plants grow in them. In this book, Judy Mielke, an expert on Southwestern gardening, offers the most comprehensive guide to landscaping with native plants available. Writing simply enough for beginning gardeners, while also providing ample information for landscape professionals, she presents over three hundred trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, groundcovers, wildflowers, cacti, and other plants particularly suited to arid landscapes. The heart of the book lies in the complete descriptions and beautiful color photographs of plants native to the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan desert regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Judy Mielke characterizes each plant's foliage, flowers, fruits, and mature sizes. She gives detailed information on its natural habitat, its water, soil, light, temperature, and pruning requirements, and its possible uses in landscape design. In addition to this specific growing information, Mielke includes informative discussions of the ecology of the three deserts, general growing instructions for native plants and wildflowers, and "how-to" ideas for revegetation of disturbed desert areas using native plants. She concludes the book with an extensive list of plants by type, including those that have specific features such as shade or fragrance. She also supplies a list of public gardens that showcase native plants. Designed for everyone from beginning gardeners to landscape architects, designers, and maintenance personnel, *Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes* will be as indispensable in the garden as a shovel or a wheelbarrow.

About the Author
Judy Mielke of Tempe, Arizona, is a landscape designer who also teaches courses on the use of Southwestern native plants.