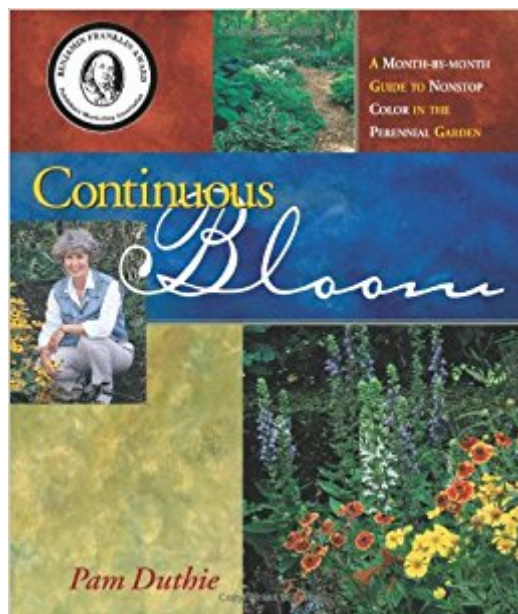




The book was found

Continuous Bloom: A Month-by-Month Guide To Nonstop Color In The Perennial Garden



Synopsis

A guide to keeping a perennial garden in bloom from April through October, this book provides all the information a gardener needs to grow beautiful flowers. Detailed information includes descriptions of flowers, bloom length, light and soil requirements, care, propagation, and potential problems.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

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Customer Reviews

Cleverly arranged by month of blooming time, Duthie's book covers 272 perennials, including traditional perennials and selected bulbs, ferns, grasses, and shrubs. Each "plant portrait" provides the scientific and common names of the plant; details of its flower, foliage, care, uses, and propagation; plants to combine it with; and problems, insider's tips, and a good color photograph of the perennial. One drawback is that while the author provides the USDA zone(s) where each perennial does best, no map of all USDA zones is included in the book itself. Libraries needing a good, basic guide to perennials should first consider Larry Hodgson's *Perennials for Every Purpose* (LJ 12/99), which covers almost three times the number of plants as Duthie's book and offers more information on them. Public libraries in USDA zones four through eight may want to consider *Continuous Bloom* as an added title, especially if the subject is popular with your patrons.-John Charles, Scottsdale P.L., AZ Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Winner of the 2001 Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Gardening/Agriculture book! -- Publishers Marketing Association

This is an absolute must have book, whether you are a beginner or an expert gardener. Pam Duthie answers all of the questions you might have. The pictures are just fabulous because she shows combinations of plants. The fact sheet under the pictures gives excellent information. I looked under *Verbena* 'Homestead Purple,' which we have found doesn't winter over even though it is supposed to, and she says that it doesn't winter over. I teach a class for adults called "Color Yearround in the Garden," and I was so excited about this book, I brought it to the class. My students were equally excited and wanted to purchase the book. One of the very helpful facts Pam Duthie includes is what other perennials combine well with each plant she pictures. With perennial gardening, whether you have a lot of perennials or just a smattering by the pool or mailbox, this is what everyone wants to know, how to combine the plants for a pleasing design and succession of bloom. I can't think of any other gardening book with so much helpful information.

"Continuous Bloom" is a must have garden reference book. The author highlights 272 durable and long-blooming perennials and bulbs which are key to achieving continuous bloom in the garden. Each perennial highlighted is arranged by month of bloom. Like other perennial books, this book provides the botanic and common name of the plant, the zone, the height, the spacing of the plant, and the light necessary for bloom. However, the author also provides valuable information such as length of bloom, flower and foliage description, care and use of the plant, when to propagate, plant problems, interesting insider's tips, and companion plants. Pam Duthie also devotes a chapter to her "nitty-gritty" tips for good garden care. Finally, the appendices of the book provide additional information on plants with colored foliage, hostas, astilbes, daylilies, perennials least affected by deer and rabbit browsing, and even lists of mail-order catalogs. All perennials in the book are indexed by both common and botanic names making it easy to use. Full-color pictures for each plant is an added bonus. Although this book highlights 272 perennials and is a valuable guide for the garden lover, you might want to keep another resource book around for those plants which are not mentioned. "Continuous Bloom" is a handy guide for both new and experienced gardeners. It has become my most favorite garden reference book!

I bought my first copy of this book years ago after hearing Pam Duthie speak about it, and how she had this binding (spiral with laminated pages) done so that it could be used in the garden safely. I lent that old copy to a friend who was reworking his landscaping and never saw it again, so this is my replacement. The fact that I felt the need to replace it should say everything anyone needs to

hear.

I have several gardening books that I enjoy, but this is the first one to immediately impress me. I think this book could also be appropriately titled "Timing is Everything". Most of us have certain times thruout the year when we look at our gardens/landscaping and realize that something is missing... the bloom has gone... That's where this book shines. It takes you from March ("The Emerging Garden") thru November ("The Last Hurrah!"), listing page after page of perennials that show their best at that time of the year. Each plant has its own page, with a beautiful picture. Below the picture is information on plant type, zone, flower, foliage, bloom length, height, width/spacing, light, soil, care, uses, propogation, problems, insider's tips, and combining ("combines with"). The corners of the pages are color-coded for easy reference (i.e. April is yellow, May is green...). Some corners contain a clock icon for those perennials that have "extended bloom times" (i.e. "14-plus weeks..." on page 91), and/or a leaf icon for those that have "notable foliage" (i.e. "Mounds of chocolate-tinged oval leaves" on page 261). This book also includes chapters for Winter ("Who Stops Gardening in Winter?") that talks about "Evaluating and Planning as Part of the Gardening Process", and Tips ("Nitty-Gritty Tips for Good Garden Care") that can be as basic as "The Fifteen-Minute Garden Solution" which "eliminates...spending an entire day on the weekend...". Is this book an all-encompassing enclopedia? No. Does this book contain all there is to know on pruning and training? No. Do these things take away from the book? Emphatically, No. This is a beautifully done book that is a "Month-By-Month Guide" to help us plan, and give us ideas, and fill the voids that occur in our current scheme. It's a book that is so usefull you won't want to put it away, and is so beautiful you'll want to leave it out. This is a book you'll want to get your hands on in any format (hardcover, paperback...), but if you have the chance, get the spiral bound edition. This edition not only looks great, but all the pages are plastic coated for years of handling.

Nicely organized with a one page picture across from one page discussion, but when she recommends plant pairings, it is always in their Latin names. You are forced to look in the index to find the pairing (unless you are familiar with the Latin names or can recall the species name that is often in English). Corresponding page numbers of the companion plants would be a big plus. Liked the chronological order of the bloom times, but otherwise it is a catalogue of flowering plants that do well in zone 5 or nearby.

I had high hopes for this book and felt my excitement dwindle when I opened it. While it organizes it

by bloom time it doesn't offer much after that. The information blurbs are more like quick at-a-glance fact. Perhaps this book is better suited for a more experienced gardener who just wants to quickly look up a plant or add a new one to their already existing garden. If you are a new gardener and looking for a more overall approach, advice, explanation of misgivings of plants then this book is not for you. I recommend Perennials for Every Purpose.

One of the best books I have ever seen.

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