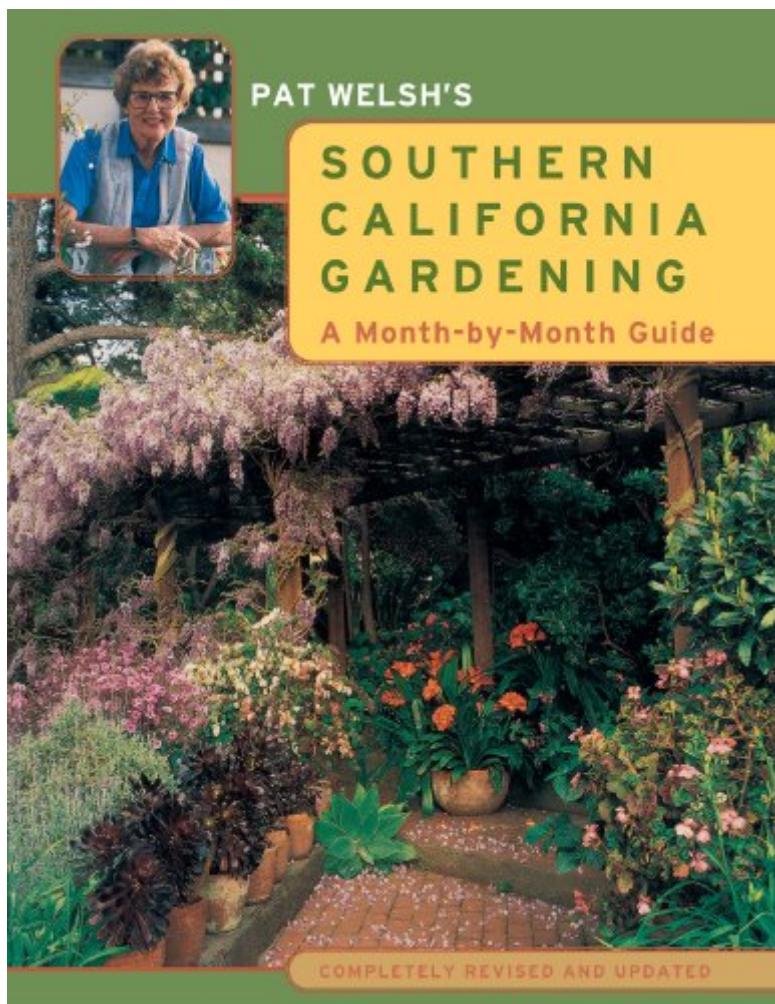


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# Pat Welsh's Southern California Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide



## **Synopsis**

First published in 1992, Pat Welsh's Southern California Gardening sold well over 40,000 copies and received great critical acclaim. The completely revised and updated edition includes 40 new color photographs plus new information on perennials, ornamental grasses, geraniums, and more. Monthly chapters discuss relevant gardening topicsclimate, plant selection, soils, fertilizers, and wateringand are accompanied by handy checklists to help gardeners stay organized. An assortment of sidebars and rules of thumb will prove useful to gardeners in any region. Beautifully photographed and written in Pat Welsh's warm and practical style, this is an indispensable guide for every southern California gardener.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I am just beginning the adventure into the world of gardening. This is our first house and after two years my husband and I are finally installing our yards. I was looking for a definitive book about how to garden in Southern California, Ms. Welsh's book more than fit the bill. Her book is full of gardening ideas and monthly schedules that spread the chores out over the 12 months of the year

leaving a lot of time for enjoyment. As a novice, I now feel more confident cruising the nurseries and homecenters looking for the perfect plant because I have a better understanding of the maintenance and care needed.

Want to be a top notch gardener in So. California and impress all of your friends? Follow her advice, all of it. I've gardened in San Diego for 8 years, the last 5 of which I've had her month-to-month guide. What a difference! She is right on with tips on vegetable gardens, annuals, perennials, when to plant what, managing garden pests, you name it. Plus, she is delightful to read. Her funny and matter-of-fact style makes you read ahead to months you're not even in. Buy it, read it, you'll be amazed at the results.

This is my garden bible. Although I use other specialized garden books like the Sunset Western Garden Book for detailed plant info., this is the one that tells me exactly when to do what to which plants month-by-month, including how-to sketches. There's nothing better for SoCal gardeners!

I came from England to Southern California and found that my gardening experience was almost useless in this climate. This book really is amazing, if you have this and the Sunset Western Gardening book you can't really go far wrong. Pat Welsh takes you month by month through the gardening year so that you seldom have to struggle to find the information you need. It's very well indexed too - a sure sign of trustworthiness.

This is a superbly organized book that truly is a SoCal gardening "bible". All the basics and more are covered, month-by-month, (from planting, pruning, and pest control, to "How to Plant a Water Lily"), including some fun ideas with a Martha Stewart flavor to them ("How to Grow a Cantaloupe in a Tire"). The end of the month checklists are concise, useful summaries of each chapter. I especially appreciate how the author gives background information in addition to detailing the methods you should use, basically, so the gardener doesn't just know HOW to do something, s/he knows WHY (e.g., the effects of Santa Ana winds, "What is an Epiphyte?"). Also, Ms. Welsh is thorough (and thankfully includes organic methods); for example, under Control of Snails and Slugs, she explains not two, but nine ways to deal with those slimy pests. My single complaint is one of omission: composting is given little attention in this book; vermiculture (using worms for composting) is not even mentioned. I have found composting with a worm bin perfect for "Suburban and Small Space(s)"; if properly maintained, these bins can be used indoors. However, for most gardeners, an

expanded composting section for this book is not needed as composting is already an established part of their routine. For beginners, there may be enough information here to get them started. The additional book I recommend below provides sufficient composting and mulching information. For your Southern California garden, I recommend this book and *Weedless Gardening* (by Lee Reich), plus a healthy application of compost.

I love this book. I was checking it out of the library for information and decided I had to have it. If you are a beginner it speaks in clear understandable language. If you are experienced, it covers all aspects of gardening and in a clear organized manner that helps you plan your entire year. His check off lists are handy and his attitude is what makes this book so enjoyable. Buy one for yourself and one for a friend.

Pat Welsh demystifies gardening in our unique climate here in So. Cal. Besides being enjoyable reading, this book helps gardeners understand the differences between gardening here and other less temperate areas of the country. I've owned this book for a couple of years, and for me, it rates right up there with the *Sunset Western Garden Book* on frequency of consultation.

I have many books on caring for outdoor plants, but this book is by far the best I've ever seen! It guides you through purchasing, planting, trimming, pruning, dividing, fertilizing, pest and weed control, vegetable gardening, care of citrus trees, roses and much more. Everything is specific to the S. Calif. climate. There is a chapter devoted to each month, which goes indepth about specific plants and trees that need special attention that month. At the end of each chapter there is a checklist of "to-dos" for the month. With this book your time spent in the garden will produce better results, and it will help you to do things right the first time instead of learning through (costly and time-consuming) mistakes.

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