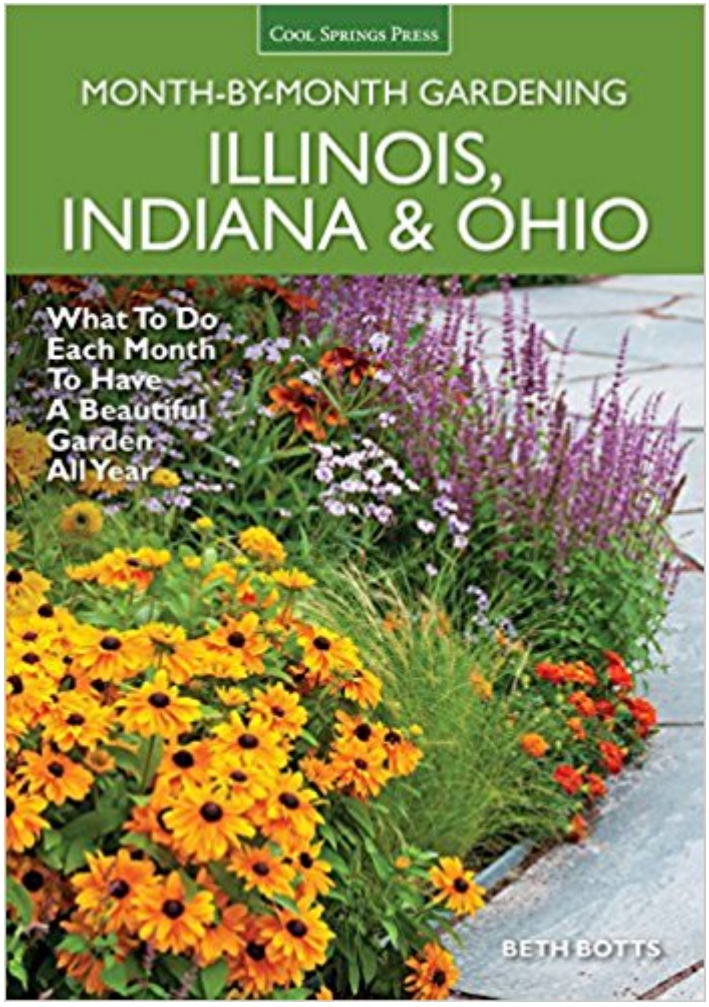
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Illinois, Indiana & Ohio Month-by-Month Gardening: What To Do Each Month To Have A Beautiful Garden All Year



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Synopsis

The when-to and how-to schedule for growing, caring for, and maintaining your garden in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio! Never garden alone! The Month-by-Month Gardening series is the perfect companion to take the guesswork out of gardening. With this book, you'll know what to do each month to have gardening success all year, from January to December. It's full of the when-tos and how-tos of gardening along with richly illustrated step-by-step instructions, so you can garden with confidence. With a fresh look and updated information, Illinois, Indiana & Ohio Month-by-Month Gardening includes all the when-to and how-to information that has made these books so popular over the years, presented in a new, easier-to-use format with more full-color photography and the most current information available. From planting to watering and fertilizing, and from maintenance to problem solving, Illinois, Indiana & Ohio Month-by-Month Gardening shows all levels of gardeners the best practices to grow satisfying and rewarding results.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beth Botts has written hundreds of articles about gardens and nature for publications including the Chicago Tribune and magazines including Organic Gardening, Country Gardens and Chicagoland Gardening. Raised on the south side of Chicago by an organic gardener, she now gardens in deep shade on the north side of a four-story apartment building. Botts is a senior writer at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. Her website is thegardenbeat.com.

Gardeners know that growing things -- flowers or vegetables, trees or shrubs, groundcovers or herbs -- is so dependent on where we live. Climate and soil are everything, and I can’t be alone in thinking my particular region (northern Illinois) can be among the toughest, most unpredictable and just plain frustrating places to garden. So a book dedicated to helping us weather the whims and challenges of a specific region (not to mention its particular critters, such as deer) is worth its weight in gold -- make that loam. The month-by-month format is really helpful, too, offering timely reminders of tasks for the current month, as well as allowing the reader to prepare for the months ahead, in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.Full disclosure: I have worked with writer Beth Botts in my earlier stints as a garden editor, and my already-high expectations for this book were exceeded. The information here is so thorough, expansive and user-friendly that it will help whether you’re a pro or a rookie. I’m somewhere in between, and I bought this copy to share with two friends, one a nervous newbie and another a veteran veggie gardener. Reading the February chapter reminded me that it’s not only time to prune the roses but also the dried-out clematis vines, and to cut down my ornamental grasses. This is just one example in a book that is chock-full of clearly written tutorials, eco-friendly tips and oodles of photographs for gardeners in these three states (she also addresses the variances in growing zones within these states).Since it’s currently about 15 degrees outside, I’ll finish here to see what needs to happen in March. I’m not getting too excited about the promise of spring -- because in this corner of the world, as Botts writes, March means that "crocuses are blooming, but blizzards are still in play."

Nice book that is area specific

I found information that was slightly different from other reference books. Mainly the differences dealt with the timing of certain gardening functions and were specific for this region of the country.

I liked the way the book was laid out. Beth is very knowldgable about our area; many very helpful tips included in the book.

We gardeners are doers, experimenters, people who have tried, failed and sometimes succeeded. We have a lust for plants, a disposition for dirty hands, and a dreamerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s penchant for perfection. What do we need for a book that tells us what to do and when to do it? That notion is easily dispelled with a close view of a new book, Month-By-Month Gardening: Illinois, Indiana &

Ohio by award winning garden journalist Beth Botts. HereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a reference that is practical, comprehensive, grounded in solid horticultural science that leads the reader through all of the essential activities that every gardener should perform to grow flowers, vegetables, trees and shrubs in the Midwest. In addition to month by month activities, each chapter addresses a recurrent list of topics: planning, plant information and care, watering and fertilizing, problem solving. Annuals, perennials, lawns, containers and woodies all receive comprehensive treatment.
ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a disposition toward organic gardening, many valuable sidebar explanations of basic management techniques, clear and pertinent photographs. This great looking book will inform even the most experienced practitioner. Of special note is the vibrant language of the text that advises, explains, encourages without every being preachy. Valuable appendices included timing charts, various pest and problem discussions, a glossary and resource index. This is a thorough book by a real master gardener whose monthly treatment will awaken novice, intermediate and experienced gardeners to activities that ignite interest and lead to fulfillment of those dreams we all have.

Month-By-Month Gardening Illinois, Indiana and Ohio: What To Do Each Month to Have A Beautiful Garden All Year by Beth BottsA ReviewA friend recently told me, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The minute you used the words ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœyard work,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ I knew you were not a true gardener.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• That is true. Still, most years I have had a vegetable garden, and when I remodeled my house some years ago, I began upgrading all of my landscaping as well. Along the way I have taken some community gardening classes, sought the help of the Master Gardeners at the Extension office, and collected a number of books to improve my skills. However, I never found a single comprehensive source to have at my finger tips to help manage scheduling, planning, planting, caring for and troubleshooting my indoor and outdoor gardens.Beth BottsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ book Month-by-Month Gardening, Illinois, Indiana & Ohio, What To Do Each Month To Have a Beautiful Garden All Year provides that single source. Beth is a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, environmentalist, and journalist with more than twenty years at the Chicago Tribune. She contributes to a number of publications on gardens and nature and is currently is a senior writer at the Morton Arboretum in suburban Chicago. No arm-chair gardener, she maintains gardens in and around her Chicago suburban home.The most salient feature of this book is its structure. The Introduction provides an overview of the MidwestÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hardiness zones, microclimates, and overall gardening techniques. The remainder of the book is divided into chapters, one per month beginning with January. The configuration is consistent throughout the

book where common headings appear in bold type on colored ribbons: Plan, Plant, Care, Water, Fertilize, and Problem-Solve. Sub-headings include, All (an overview of each chapter), Annuals, Edibles, Houseplants, Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees. This regular format makes it very easy to find specific information in any chapter. Plenty of bright, clear photos appear throughout the text, illustrating step-by-step instructions, and a variety of garden animal and plant life.This relatively compact book is very comprehensive. In addition to providing a schedule for gardening activities month-by-month, the book is sprinkled with HereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s How sections on topics such as setting up lights for starting seeds, making compost, seeding or resodding a lawn, reading labels, and much more. Baffled by lawn mower maintenance, which potting mix to choose, or when and how to aerate your lawn? It is in here. The Appendix is very broad including sections on lawn problems, specific plants for special situations such as shade, common pests and diseases, resources, and an excellent glossary.The writing throughout this book is clear and concise throughout. Ms.Botts introduces each chapter with a summary of the content where her writing frequently becomes lyrical. For example in July she says, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“But these are glory days for the vegetable and fruit gardener. The sweet corn is ripe, and a gardener is able to enjoy it the best possible way: picked in the backyard at the last minute . . .ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and in August, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“WeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re in a beach-and-hammock holding pattern until the weather cools off.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Throughout, her love for growing things and the environment are readily transparent. For all of its utility, this is a wonderful book to simply read.If you are a first-time property owner with big dreams but no idea where to begin; a casual gardener looking for a comprehensive resource to improve your landscape or increase your yield of edibles; or an urban dweller challenged by limited space, Month-By-Month Gardening, Illinois, Indiana & Ohio is a must have on your bookshelf. Expert gardeners might find this a nice addition to their collections and to share with new gardeners. Very well-organized, comprehensive, well-written and nicely illustrated, this book is an excellent addition to any gardening library.

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