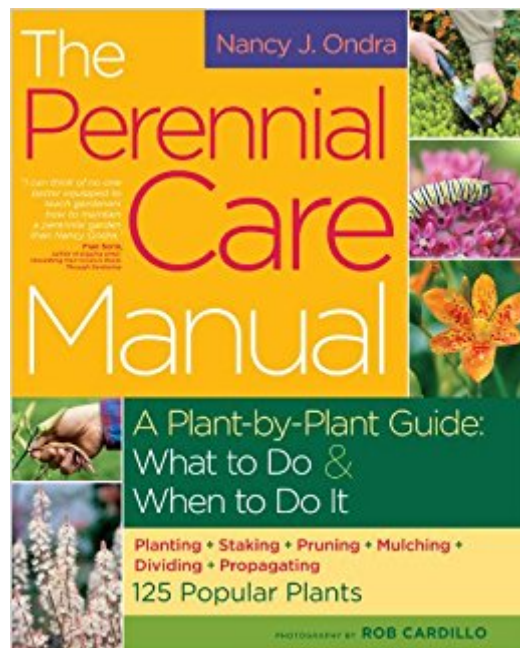




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# The Perennial Care Manual: A Plant-by-Plant Guide: What To Do & When To Do It





## Synopsis

Keep your perennial beds looking their best, season after season. From planning and planting to pruning and propagating, this comprehensive guide covers everything you need to know to maintain a stunning perennial garden. Nancy J. Ondra provides an in-depth, plant-by-plant guide that profiles 125 popular perennials, with helpful information on each plant's soil, light, and water needs. Ondra's expertise and passion for gardening, along with Rob Cardillo's breathtaking photography, will inspire you to create a garden of your dreams that will last a lifetime. Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Complete Primer on Caring for PerennialsYour yard is home to a gorgeous perennial garden, carefully designed and lovingly planted. Maintain its health and good looks all season long with Nancy Ondra's comprehensive guide to perennial care. General advice on planning, planting, watering, mulching, pruning, and propagating gives you all the hardworking information you need to become a knowledgeable and effective perennial gardener. For plant-specific questions, an alphabetical perennial reference puts every answer right at your fingertips. Need to know how to divide your sedum or when to cut back your lavender? It's all in the book's Plant-by-Plant Perennial Guide, drawn from Ondra's personal experience growing each perennial. Thorough instructions on how to care for 125 popular perennials include everything from light and soil requirements to how to prepare your plants for winter.



Rob Cardillo has been photographing gardens, plants, and the people who tend them for more than 20 years. A former director of photography at Organic Gardening, he now works for publishers, horticultural suppliers, and landscape designers throughout the United States. Visit him at [www.robcardillo.com](http://www.robcardillo.com). Nancy J. Ondra, author of *Container Theme Gardens*, is a garden writer and editor as well as the former owner and operator of a small rare-plant nursery. She is the author or co-author of a dozen gardening books, including *Foliage* (winner of the 2008 Book Award from the American Horticultural Society), *The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer* (winner of a 2006 Silver Award from the Garden Writers Association), *Five-Plant Gardens*, *The Perennial Care Manual*, *Fallscaping*, and *Grasses*. She currently gardens in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and blogs at [www.hayefield.com](http://www.hayefield.com).

This is the best how-to garden book I've found. It has great pictures, it is well laid out and very easy to use. Too often gardening books are very dense and overwhelming. If you only buy one gardening book this should be it. Part one is all about how to develop and maintain a garden. I've been gardening for years yet learned a lot of practical information I just hadn't thought about. For example: if you are going to plant a group of plants it's better to dig up and prepare the whole bed rather than dig individual holes for each plant because the roots will grow faster and wider. There is great info about planting, dealing with problems, easy ways of propagation and what to do season by season. This book had helped me become a much better gardener. Part two is about individual plants here too I learn so much that I didn't know like cutting back many plants early in the season will help the plant be stronger and better shaped. I knew about asters and mums but there are so many more plant specific options for optimal performance. There is specific information about what to do season by season, plant by plant and how to propagate and trouble shoot specific challenges. The other gardening book I recommend, particularly for those beginning or adding a new garden is the *Ever-Blooming Flower Garden* by Lee Schneller. That is the best book on garden planning, design and plant selection. It is also helpful for "fixing" poorly designed established gardens.

This book is exactly what I had hoped it would be - loaded with great information. I ordered it for my Kindle Fire and it is clear and easy to use on the Kindle. Took me a few minutes to figure out how to enlarge the photos, but it can be done and the photos enlarge clear and beautiful. The book covers the basic perennial elements but goes into helpful detail about each flower and its needs and shortcomings. That is the section I go back to over and over while planting this year. I have also taken the Kindle to the nursery with me so that I can look up the flowers before I buy them to make sure



they will do what in the garden what I have planned. An excellent source that I will return to over and over - and such beautiful photos!

I was very pleasantly surprised with the solid information on plants for a variety of our climates and different growing conditions. She discusses the reasons for recommended care, alternative ideas such as cutting back perennials with pros and cons for spring or fall. She covers a variety of mulches, their composition, and how to choose which one you prefer. I think I like best that Nancy explains what and how to do whatever needs doing. She doesn't leave you wondering how to do it. I treat many of my garden books as simple reference books where I look up information. Reading each of these pages, I'm up to page 249. This is good stuff.

This book is my main plant guide. I live in the northeast US and am new to gardening. The photos are so helpful since I never seem to remember the names of plants. The listing are not exhaustive, but plenty for a beginner. Tips on gardening are easy to follow. It does not provide info on planning a garden, however. It is more like a basic reference book.

I have found this book to be a good resource for the care and planting of a fairly wide array of perennials. I appreciate the seasonal care guide for each plant. In addition, the photography is clear enough that you are able to get a good idea of what the plant looks like. In fact, I was able to identify a plant in a neighbor's yard from the book which was very helpful since the neighbor could not remember the name of the plant. I think this book is a good addition to a gardener's library, particularly for the beginning gardener.

This is an excellent perennial care guide. Even though care information is available elsewhere and some of the advice is rather obvious, it's helpful to have the information collected in one place. Garden books that include a wider variety of plants must limit care information, so it's good to have a book that goes into greater detail.

This was a gift for a very dear friend of mine. He loves it and is always looking for information on perennials. He showed me some of the new perennials that he was afraid to add cause he didn't know how to take care of them. This book is very helpful with lots of color pictures.

I found a lot of useful advice in this book, that was both easy to read and easy to find specific



references in. Some books of this type can be very overwhelming making you feel that to be a good gardener one must give up their day job and devote all their time to the task. This book is not like that. It helps us weekend gardeners succeed without having to become as expert or devoted as the author.

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