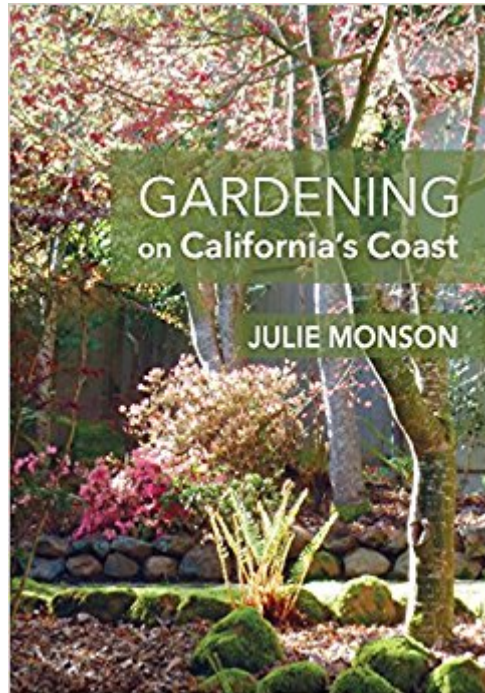




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Gardening On California's Coast



Synopsis

Ms. Monson provides advice for novice and experienced gardeners who garden on California's coast and in inland areas that share aspects of the coastal climate. California's beautiful, scenic coastline provides a backdrop to domestic gardens, encouraging the use of plants native to the local woods and meadows. Coastal gardeners cope with rainy winters and cool, foggy summers, yet by adjusting to the coast's climate, they can create extremely beautiful gardens. Profusely illustrated with photographs, the book is both a practical guide and beautiful addition to any gardener's library.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In Gardening on California's Coast, Julie Monson shares a refined sense of gardening in coastal California that is informed and enriched by her travels-from Paris to Kyoto. The wide-ranging essays in the collection cast an artistic eye on garden design, share a depth of knowledge about California flora, and lend specific guidance to plant selection and placement. Clearly written and nicely illustrated, this attractive book will complement the bookshelf of any California gardener." - Jules Evens, author, Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula and California Birdlife (University of California Press) "Gardening on California's Coast melds mind and intimate love of nature into a wonderful and deeply personal book. Congratulations on this lovely collection of essays." - Wendy Johnson, author, Gardening at the Dragon's Gate (Bantam Books) "Finally, a how-to book for gardeners on California's coast. For those who like to grow a variety of For those who like to grow a variety of flora, from vegetables to flowering trees, Julie Monson's Gardening on California's Coast covers the bases in an easy to read style. And, she never forgets that the true value of gardens is the joy they bring to our lives." - Margaret Graham, co-owner Mostly Natives Nursery

Julie Monson graduated from Stanford University, earned a Masters Degree in Government from the Claremont Graduate School and after moving to West Marin, became an enthusiastic Master Gardener, indulging her life-long interest in landscaping and gardening. Beginning with a year in Ireland, Julie and her husband have traveled extensively in England, Western and Eastern Europe, Japan and China, visiting and documenting, famous gardens.

Excellent resource for Bay Area gardeners. We borrowed a copy from the library and decided we needed to have our own!

Wonderful book for gardeners of all levels in all locations. The essence of growing is clearly spelled out in every essay and photo and it is a great and informative read for everyone everywhere.

My wife and I bought a house in Inverness, in Marin County, an hour or so north of San Francisco and moved there 25 years ago. Our house stands on two and a half acres, but there was little in the way of a garden when we found it. With enthusiasm but minimal experience we decided to plunge ahead and build one, learning as we moved along. Now, after considerable toil and quite a few ups and downs, we are surrounded by a presentable landscape that affords us pleasure. We arrived there in three ways: The first was by trial and error, and believe me there were lots of errors - plants died, plants were clumsily placed or grew in an awkward fashion. Secondly, we learned from a gardener who went to work for us after a couple of years and still arrives every Tuesday. He wisely insisted that we erect a deer fence, without which trying to maintain a garden in this semi-rural area is virtually useless. He also built us an irrigation system, something equally required here. Thirdly, but far from least, we learned from Julie Monson, a friend, a master gardener, and all-around expert on everything having to do with gardens, trees, climate, seasons, and the local environment generally. That last statement is, if anything, something of an understatement since Julie Monson has a superb eye. More importantly, she combines an unusually wide range of knowledge and experience with a talent for articulating it. For many years she wrote or edited a delightfully informative gardening column which appeared regularly in the local paper, The Pt. Reyes Light. It was, the bulk of the paper's readers would agree, about the most useful item that appeared there. She also authored many gardening articles in the Marin Independent Journal. Gardening on California's Coast is a lovely and well organized compendium of all the many things one needs to know to build or maintain a garden in coastal California. Those of us who are lucky enough

to dwell here enjoy a mild Mediterranean climate hospitable to a wide range of plants. The book's photographs illustrate the many countries and continents from which the array of species now happily at home here originated. As the book also demonstrates, Julie Monson and her husband have visited gardens seemingly everywhere; their particular favorites are the ancient gardens to be found in Kyoto, Japan. Their influence is notable in the Monson's own garden as well as in the very special aesthetic that dominates the book. No coastal gardener, whether novice or experienced, will want to be without it.

I found this book beautiful and readable and very useful. I love my garden, but I'm an average gardener, dependent on the advice of those with more training and more patience. Julie Monson has both, in spades, and this book lives now on my bedside table, the last thing I read before I sleep, and the first thing I wake up to.

Gardening on California's Coast is a beautiful, and helpful book. The gardens depicted on its pages are an inspiration. I love having it in my collection of gardening books.

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