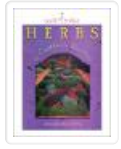


HERBS IN SOUTHERN GARDENS



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Abstract

Growing herbs - both annuals and perennials - is simple and rewarding. A wide variety of herbs can grow in most parts of the United States. Those featured in this publication grow well in the Deep South with its hot, humid summers and fluctuating winter temperatures.

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• 10 Great Herbs for Southern Gardens. Gardening in the South definitely presents certain challenges, but it is not without its rewards. Compared to the cooler climates of the North, the hot and humid weather that we garden in down south is both a blessing and a curse. Even here there are degrees of heat and humidity as Gulf Coast residents will attest, dividing the region into two separate realms of Upper South and Lower South. While garden design includes many herbs, for me their involvement is based solely on visual aesthetics and resilience. I rarely harvest for consumption except for the occasional bunch of rosemary for oven-roasted potatoes or a handful of cilantro for a Mexican dish. We have talked a lot about growing herbs in Southern California gardens, but as our statewide drought continues to worsen, this is a good time to take a look at some drought-tolerant herbs that can be grown for a variety of purposes. As you know, native plants are always a good choice for water-saving landscapes, and this is still true when it comes to herbs. Interestingly, there are many herbs that are not native to Southern California but that are native to a similar climate in Mediterranean countries, which allows us to add them to the list of herbs that can thrive here with similar care re Herbs in the Garden. Herbs are a special group of plants used for flavoring and scents. Many herbs used in flavoring foods and teas (culinary herbs) can be grown in Mississippi gardens. Most herbs should be grown in full sun, but a few tolerate light shade. They prefer a well-drained soil of medium fertility with a pH of 6.0 to 7.0. An organic mulch in summer benefits the plants. Herbs that can be grown in Mississippi are annuals that are planted every year, biennials that are planted in the fall and flower the following year, hardy perennials that come back year after year, and tender perenn