

## Books Available to LaBelle Garden Club Members

Fill out and index card or send an email ([dlboge2@gmail.com](mailto:dlboge2@gmail.com)) with the name of the book(s) you want, your name, and your telephone number. The book will be there for you at the next LaBelle Garden Club meeting. You can also pick up the books at my house at 269 Pollywog Point LaBelle or a "delivery service" can even deliver them to your doorstep if you put down your address. A maximum of three books per member at a time with a two month time limit please. David Bogert, Telephone 863-342-8233

Books available:

### GENERAL FLORIDA LANDSCAPE GARDENING

1. "Florida Gardeners Handbook", 2012, 266 pages. In my opinion the best all-around book on all aspects of Florida Gardening and Landscaping. It covers everything from lawns, to vegetable gardens to plant selections specific to different areas of Florida.
2. "Your Florida Landscape", 1998, 239 pages. An authoritative book on landscaping in Florida put together by a large team of contributors from the University of Florida.
3. "Florida Landscape Plants", 1975, 410 pages, 403 Florida plants completely described with cultural requirements and a sketch of the plant and its leaves.
4. "Florida, My Eden", 1986, 212 pages. Actually much like the book above, a listing of 292 Palms, Trees and Shrubs for Florida yards with cultural requirements and excellent photographs.
5. "Florida Getting Started Guide", 2013, 238 pages. Again much like the book above with 204 excellent annuals, perennials, palms, cycads, shrubs and trees suitable for growing in LaBelle and throughout Florida. Great photographs.
6. "500 plants of South Florida". 1974, 161 pages, one paragraph descriptions of plants and excellent pictures. Unfortunately it does not tell the hardiness of the plant so you need to look it up in other books or on the internet to know whether or not the plant grows in LaBelle's zone 9B.
7. "Easy Gardens for South Florida", 2001, 316 pages. Excellent book with lots of photographs and two page descriptions of plants. The only problem seems to be it is too conservative on its choice of hardiness. Most of the plants it lists as hardy only to 10B are hardy in LaBelle's zone 9B. In many cases they are plants commonly seen in yards in LaBelle.
8. "Best Garden Color for Florida", 2005, 347 pages. A companion book for "Easy Gardens for South Florida", above. Like the above only with an emphasis on color. Excellent book with lots of photographs and two page descriptions of plants. The only problem seems to be that, like its companion book, it is too conservative on its choice of hardiness. Most of the plants it lists as hardy only to 10B are actually hardy in LaBelle's zone 9B.
9. "The Art of South Florida Gardening", 1996, 264 pages. A good very complete book on all aspects of gardening in South Florida, even though some of its advice was outdated. For instance, it says there is no way to control nutgrass in lawns, which is just not true. There are at least three selective nutgrass killers.
10. "Yankee's guide to Florida Gardening", 1995, 168 pages. Just what it says. It points out the many differences required to garden in Florida versus where the snow flies.
11. "Florida Gardening: The Newcomer's Survival Manual", 1998, 86 pages. Much like the book above.
12. "Your Florida Guide to Perennials", 2006, 125 pages. Excellent book on the often overlooked smaller perennial plants which grow well in Florida.

13. \* "Zone Garden 8-9-10", 1997, 220 pages. A very good book with only a few errors I could find. For instance, delphiniums and hydrangeas do not grow in LaBelle but this book lists them as growing here.
14. \* "Southern Living Garden Book", 1998, 512 pages. There is one book I own which I won't loan out because I use it pretty much every day. That is the "Southern Living Garden Book". It is an invaluable reference book for any gardener anywhere in the South, including Florida, on any subject, including such things as attracting birds. Luckily for you Pat Johnson gave me a copy for the library along with a bunch of other books. But if you're serious about gardening you probably already own the book.
15. "Tough Plants for Florida Gardens", 2005, 239 pages. Actually just a narrative about a whole series of plants from annuals to trees to water plants. Many of the plants listed are not "tough" plants. For instance Impatiens is listed and it is dying all over the state due to a mold. Persian Shield is decidedly difficult to grow as is Princess Flower but both are listed in this book. Natives are decidedly tougher than many of the plants in this book. However, virtually everything described by this book can be grown in LaBelle.
16. "A Guide to Landscaping for your Florida Home", 1963, 119 pages. A series of informative one page descriptions of Florida Landscape plants.
17. "California Master Gardener Handbook". 2009, 702 pages. This huge book was what I used to become a Master Gardener in Arizona and 99% of what is in it applies equally well to Florida. It is an encyclopedia of gardening, covering any and all topics. Many of the plants which grow in Southern California (for instance: crotons and Ti plants) grow equally well in South Florida so the data transfers well.

## **TROPICAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

18. "Tropical Garden Design", 1999, 208 pages. A "coffee table" book full of beautiful photographs of spectacular tropical gardens. If you really want a beautiful tropical landscape this book will give you some mouthwatering ideas
19. "Modern Tropical Garden Design", 2007, 204 pages. Very similar to the book above with the same author.
20. "The Colors of Nature, Subtropical Gardens by Raymond Jungles", 2008, 219 pages. Another "coffee table" book full of beautiful landscapes by Raymond Jungles, a landscape architect who specializes in using native plants in Florida friendly landscapes.
21. "Ten Landscapes, Raymond Jungles", 1999, 104 pages. Really more an advertising brochure for the Raymond Jungles landscape architecture firm, it gives some good ideas on creating unique native plant landscapes in Florida.
22. "The Tropical Garden", 1997, 224 pages. A book full of photographs of tropical garden architecture from estates and hotels around the world. A tropical landscape designer's handbook.
23. "New Brazilian Gardens, the Legacy of Burle Marx", 2006, 192 pages. A "coffee table book" much like the above book only emphasizing the often wildly colorful architecture of Roberto Burle Marx, my favorite landscape architect.
24. There are a series of excellent articles put out by the University of Florida by Gail Hansen on how to design your landscape: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg086> , <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep375> , and [http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/FFL\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/FFL_Plant_Selection_Guide.pdf) These are the only "how to" books or articles that I could find that talked about such items as balance and unity in a garden design This is essential reading if you are redoing the landscaping of a yard.

## **FLORIDA LAWN CARE**

25. \* "Florida Lawn Handbook". 2005, 172 pages. Excellent book on Florida lawn care. It is a little confusing in spots, such as it recommends that Potassium levels in fertilizers be close to Nitrogen levels (a true statement) and then doesn't follow that advice in its fertilization tables. Since its a compendium of work by many different University of Florida professors and subject to "undue influence" by the likes of fertilizer companies the disconnect is not unexpected.
26. "Florida Lawn Guide", 2008. A little more up to date version of the above with some better recommendations. For instance it includes some updated information on lawn grass varieties. But it still predates the latest legislation and fails to put sufficient potassium in its fertilizer tables. But then the legislation is muddy at best, as can be seen by examining the following website.
27. A complete run down of the official general recommendations for Southwest Florida Lawns can be found at the website <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/florida-friendly-fertilizing.pdf> . Because the exact ordinances governing fertilizer application rates are being left up to each municipality or county the booklet is pretty general. "Muddy at best" is the only way to describe the situation.

## **VEGETABLE AND FRUIT GARDENING IN FLORIDA**

28. "Florida's Best Fruiting Plants", 2006, 230 pages. This covers every fruiting plant which can be grown in Florida, with excellent maps showing the range of each fruit and its culture.
29. "Guide to Florida Fruit and Vegetable Gardening", 2009, 282 pages. Excellent up to date book on the subject. Must reading for anyone doing edible gardening.
30. \*"Vegetable Pest ID and Control", 99 pages, Written by the esteemed Florida expert on the subject, one Gene McAvoy, this is a thorough analysis of the insect and disease pests found on Florida Vegetables.
31. \*\*"Florida Fruit", 1991, 117 pages. This book is pretty outdated as citrus greening and new low chill varieties of fruiting trees have considerably changed the fruit growing landscape. But it has a good section on identifying nutrient deficiencies with some good photos.
32. "Growing Tasty Tropical Plants \*in any Home, Anywhere". 2010, 157 pages. While a book on indoor growing of fruit much of what is in it applies equally well to growing outside in South Florida. It has directions on some little known plants such as Barbados cherry and miracle berry.
33. \* "Oriental vegetables", 1991, 219 pages. More and more people in Florida are growing these types of vegetables for home use. Most of these are very well adapted to the South Florida climate.
34. "The Highbush Blueberry and Its Management", 1994, 262 pages. The bible if you want to grow blueberries in your home garden in LaBelle. Note that blueberries are best grown in containers in LaBelle unless you happen to have free draining organic acid soil.
35. "Grow the Best Blueberries", 1982, 32 pages. This small bulletin has some excellent diagrams on the complicated subject of properly pruning blueberry plants.
36. \* "Bananas and Plantains", 1996, 232 pages. A very complete book on growing these plants for their fruit. It should be noted that in LaBelle's climate the bananas need to be picked as they approach ripening stage and then ripened indoors, out of the cold.

## **HERB GARDENING IN FLORIDA**

37. \* "Uncommon Scents, Growing Herbs and Spices in Florida", 1996, 222 pages. Just what the title says. This book does mention some of the supposed medicinal effects of most of the herbs and spices.

38. "Florida's Best Herbs and Spices", 2010, 229 pages. A thorough listing and description of some 90 herbs grown as flavoring or for their potpourri scents. This book doesn't delve into medicinal uses.

**MEDICINAL HERBS** Note that by including these books in our library we are not recommending or passing judgment on the efficacy or safety of anything these books might recommend.

39. "Medicinal Herbs, A Beginner's Guide", 2012, 223 pages. The book starts out with an "herbalists 101 Course" in tonics, infusions, teas, poultices etc. and how to make them. It then gives a whole series of recipes for whatever ails you. Note that it does warn at several points that a visit to the doctor is in order for some things.

40. "The Encyclopedia of Medicinal Plants", 1996, 335 pages. This is a huge book which lists each medicinal herb alphabetically by the Latin name. It lists some 550 key medicinal plants and how to use them. A truly complete bible for the herbalist.

41. "National Geographic Guide to Medicinal Herbs: The World's Most Effective Healing Plants", 2010. 383 pages. Written by holistic MD's, this book is a compendium on some 72 medicinal plants broken down by the illness treated.

42. "Medicinal Herbs. A Compendium", 2005, 224 pages. A series of alphabetically ordered one page listing of medicinal herbs in common use. Each use is accompanied by short instructions on how to use the concoction recommended.

## **TROPICAL GARDENING**

43. "A Field Guide to Tropical and Subtropical Plants", 1982, 135 pages. A listing of tropical trees and plants, many of which are hardy in LaBelle. The photos are beautiful.

44. "Tropicalismo!" 2008, 208 pages. Ninety five very colorful and very desirable tropical plants, all of which can be grown in LaBelle. If you read this you'll want every one of these 95 plants in your garden.

45. "Bizarre Botanicals", 2010, 283 pages. Full of exactly what it says, bizarre, unusual plants not widely seen in cultivation. Most will grow in LaBelle.

46. "The Subtropical Garden", 2000, 175 pages. Perfect for LaBelle's climate, this book is full of beautiful and not often seen plants which will give a tropical look to any garden.

47. "Exotic Garden", 1999, 164 pages. Another book perfect for Labelle which shows how to create a tropical effect in our type of climate.

48. "Plants for Tropical Landscapes", 2000, 136 pages. A large book full of small photos and listings of one tropical plant after another, most of which grow in LaBelle. A great reference book.

49. "Tropical Plants for Home and Garden", 1997, 240 pages. Another large book which kindles a desire to buy twenty acres and fill it with tropical looking plants. Again, most of the plants will grow in LaBelle.

50. "Landscaping with Tropical Plants", 2004, 128 pages. A well done book from Sunset Magazine which is chock full of information on creating a tropical garden.

51. "Bold and Exotic Plants", 2000, 111 pages. A book devoted to plants which create an exclamation point in the landscape. Most of the plants grow well in LaBelle but are hard to find. "Top Tropicals" Nursery is a good source of many.
52. "The Complete Guide to Conservatory Plants", 1995, 186 pages. A book that is full of plants that will grow well in LaBelle's climate. The minimum temperatures listed for each plant are for YEAR AROUND temperatures in a conservatory greenhouse, not winter lows outside.
53. "Growing Plumerias in Hawaii and Around the World", 2006, 125 pages. Chock full of beautiful photos and instructions on all aspects of raising this beautiful tropical plant.
54. "Success with Bamboos and Ornamental Grasses", 2008, 160 pages. Concentrating on bamboo, a plant which always gives a tropical look to any garden and is easily grown in LaBelle.

### **NATIVE FLORIDA PLANTS**

55. "Native Florida Plants", 2004, 392 pages. Three hundred and twenty one native plants listed with great photographs and descriptions. Going "native" if at all possible is always the best way to landscape as these plants survive our unusual Florida conditions naturally.
56. "Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants", 2003, 405 pages. Much like the book above only with better and more photographs and drawings.
57. "Natural Florida Landscaping", 2007, 110 pages. An excellent small book with many lists which tell which area of the state and what conditions natives grow under.
58. \* "Illustrated Plants of Florida and the Coastal Plain", 1993, 430 pages. A very complete book of all the small flowers and shrubs of South Florida, including some exotics as well as all the natives.
59. "Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities", 1998, 365 pages. The wildflowers are interestingly grouped not alphabetically but rather by the plant community they are found in. Excellent field book.
60. "Florida Wildflowers and Roadside Plants", 1982, 301 pages, Excellent field guide to 500 plants in Florida with excellent photographs. Covers both native and exotic plants. Difficult to use unless you know the name of the plant you are looking at.
61. "The Trees of Florida", 2010, 336 pages. More like two books in one. The first quarter of the book discusses the taxonomy and genera of the trees. The second three fourths is an excellent field guide.
62. "The Ferns of Florida". 2000, 205 pages. A pretty scholarly work on literally all the ferns found in Florida, both natives and exotics. And there sure are a lot of them!
63. "Native Bromeliads of Florida", 2009, 126 pages. Exactly what the title says, with excellent photographs. The expert book on the subject. Easy reading.
64. The website of the Florida Native Plant Society [www.fnps.org/plants](http://www.fnps.org/plants) is extremely useful for those interested in native plants. On the map in the website, click on Hendry County, then you can create a plant list for all types of soils, light conditions, etc. You can find recommended native trees, shrubs, vines, groundcover, flowers, and grasses for just what you want.
65. "The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida" 1996, 391 pages. This is a field guide for every shrub and vine found in the states of Florida, both natives and introduced exotics. It tells the locations where these plants are found in but doesn't tell much about their use by wildlife, which would have fleshed out the book nicely.

## **ATTRACTING WILDLIFE AND BIRDS WITH NATIVE FLORIDA PLANTS**

66. \* "A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants", 2001, 342 pages. Despite its title, this book talks about a lot about wildlife attractiveness of different native plants. A very thorough book which I found very useful in planting my garden with an emphasis towards attracting birds.
67. "Landscaping for Florida Wildlife", 1998, 92 pages. This book arranges native plants and information by the ecosystem or community of plants they are found with. This is a very useful way to look at the planting of natives for wildlife. Especially if part of your property is hardwood hammock and part is flooded swamp.
68. "Planting a Refuge for Wildlife, How to Create a Backyard Habitat for Florida's Birds and Beasts". 33 pages. Excellent fact filled book which shows just how to attract a great many birds to your backyard by each bird species. Also one of the few books that recognizes LaBelle as belonging to Central, not South Florida. Put out by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.
69. "All Native Garden Center, Nursery and Landscapes". This Company in Fort Myers by Page Field puts out a small eight page pamphlet which is chock full of information on native plants, their uses (specifically butterflies and birds) and their needs. They don't tell the hardiness zone and have some zone 10 plants which are marginal in LaBelle. But if you look up the hardiness on the internet the data is very useful in a simple and easily read format. This pamphlet is on their website: [www.no.lawn.com](http://www.no.lawn.com), along with a wealth of other information.
70. "Secrets of Backyard Bird Feeding Success", 2011, 290 pages. Very good book with specific recommendations on what foods to put out and what plants to plant to attract a few desirable species such as the buntings and bluebirds, along with all the other birds.
71. "Backyard Feeding Bonanza", 2005, 365 pages. I like this book as it tells exactly what birds are attracted to each food item. But then some of its recommendations are really expensive: meal worms? Peanuts?
72. "Attracting Birds to your Backyard", 1998, 295 pages. Much like the books above, only it has specific bird recommendations on birds such as warblers and vireos which aren't in the above books.

## **ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES IN FLORIDA**

73. "Florida Butterfly Caterpillars". 2005, 338 pages. If you want to attract butterflies to your Garden this is the book to help you do just that.
74. "A Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening", 2000, 90 pages. A small book which covers a lot of the feeder plants for butterfly caterpillars.
75. "Florida's Fabulous Butterflies", 2001, 90 pages. Thin but large, this book has stunning photography of the butterflies of Florida.
76. \* "Gardening for Florida Butterflies", 1999, 134 pages. Just what the title says.

## **ORGANIC GARDENING**

77. "Organic Methods for Vegetable Gardening in Florida", 2013, 326 pages. An excellent book which divides Florida into three regions and give plant recommendations based on the region.

78. "Rodale's Ultimate Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening", 2009, 702 pages. A must reference work for any serious organic gardener
79. "Teaming with Nutrients", 2013, 241 pages. An up to date organic gardener's guide to optimizing plant nutrition. Good book
80. "Teaming with Microbes", 2010, 220 pages. The organic gardener's guide to the soil food web. Personally one of my favorites.
81. "Building Soils Naturally", 2012, 295 pages, Basic Book on Organic Gardening
82. "The Truth about Organic Gardening", 2008, 208 pages. A balanced objective look at organic gardening, its pluses and its minuses.

## **COMPOSTING**

83. "Compost", 2001, 106 pages. A small book which covers the basics of organic composting.
84. "Secrets to a Great Soil", 1998, 213 pages. While it concentrates on composting and mulching it also includes many topics of interest to all gardeners, such as how to deal with an alkaline soil.
85. "The Complete Compost Gardening Guide", 2008, 214 pages. This thorough guide goes through every method and all methods of making great compost. A very complete composting book.
86. "Organic Gardener's Composting", 2010, 144 pages, A textbook of organic gardening and composting science without a single photograph or diagram. For the really serious organic gardener.
87. "How to Build, Maintain and Use a Compost System", 2011, 287 pages. Literally what its title says, it leads you step by step through building many different compost making systems.
88. "Let it Rot", 1998, 146 pages. Another book which shows many different techniques for producing compost.
89. "Composting for Dummies", 2010, 196 pages, Written by a "master composter" this is yet another book which shows many different ways to create good compost.
90. "The Rodale Book of Composting", 1992, 265 pages. Another book which shows many different techniques for producing compost. This book concentrates on purely "organic" methods.

## **PLANT PROPAGATION**

91. "Easy Plant Propagation", 1998, 122 pages. Good general overview of all the propagation techniques: seeds, cuttings, divisions and layering.
92. "The Plant Propagator's Bible", 2007, 192 pages. Like the above a good general overview of all the propagation techniques: seeds, cuttings, divisions and layering. But this has better illustrations and photos.
93. "Growing, Propagating methods and Techniques", 1996, 95 pages. A very basic book which just skims the surface of the various techniques.
94. "Plant Propagation, A to Z", 2006, 224 pages, a surprisingly complete book which goes into specific seed, cutting and division requirements of hundreds if not thousands of plants. Excellent book.



95. "The New Seed Starters Handbook", 1988, 384 pages. Goes into great depth about all the different ways to start seeds outdoors, indoors and in a greenhouse.
96. "The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation", 2006, 406 pages. If you want to grow bushes, shrubs or trees from seed or from cuttings this is the book for you. Initially it is pretty discouraging since it says most plants require completely different techniques, then it goes on to a huge encyclopedia which gives the different cutting and seedling germination recommendations for a huge number of woody plants.
97. "Gardening Indoors with Cuttings", 1997, 96 pages. A small specialized book that covers the subject extremely well. If you want to try difficult woody cuttings this book will help.
98. "Success with Cuttings", 2003, 148 pages. An excellent book with specific instructions on both stem and root cuttings. It has a lot of species specific advice.
99. "Success with Seed", 2004, 156 pages. The companion book to that above it is also chock full of very specific information on seed propagation. Unfortunately much of the material doesn't apply to Florida plants, which tend to be unique due to our climate.
100. "Plant Propagation" 1999, 320 pages. A large complete book on both seed and cutting propagation of over 1,500 species of plants.
101. "Plant Propagation: Seeds, Cuttings, Division, Layering, Grafting" 1997, 102 pages, A good overview of the several subjects with some good lists on propagating different species.
102. "Secrets of Plant Propagation", 1985, 168 pages. A surprisingly thorough book with lots of useful information.
103. "The Complete Book of Plant Propagation", 1998, 224 pages. Another good overview of all the various methods of propagating plants.
104. "The Complete Book of Plant Propagation", 1992, 256 pages. Not the same as the book above. Another good overview of all the various methods of propagating plants. The interesting part about all these propagation books is that they all give little tidbits of knowledge here and there that other books don't give and that they all approach the subjects a little differently."
105. "The Complete Book on Saving Seed" 2011, 306 pages. A Book on separating, harvesting and planting seed. It lists specific treatments on some 322 species.
106. "Seed to Seed", 1991, 219 pages. Geared towards vegetable gardeners who are interested in saving seed from their gardens. Also goes into trying one's hand at hybridizing.
107. A complete rundown on germinating all sorts of seeds can be found on the internet at:  
[Seed Germination Theory and Practice - National Agricultural Library ...](http://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/41278/PDF)  
[naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/41278/PDF](http://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/41278/PDF)  
[First Supplement to the Second Edition of Seed Germination Theory](http://ddr.nal.usda.gov/bitstream/10113/41279/1/cat30988245.pdf)  
[ddr.nal.usda.gov/bitstream/10113/41279/1/cat30988245.pdf](http://ddr.nal.usda.gov/bitstream/10113/41279/1/cat30988245.pdf)  
[Second supplement to seed germination theory and practice](http://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/41277/PDF)  
[naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/41277/PDF](http://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/41277/PDF)

## SOIL TEXTBOOKS

108. "Principles and Applications of Soil Microbiology", 2005, 638 Pages. Pretty technical textbook but very complete and up to date.



109. "Soil Microbiology, Ecology and Biochemistry", 2007, 532 Pages. Pretty technical textbook but very complete and up to date.
110. "Elements of the Nature and Properties of Soils", 1999, 555 Pages. Pretty technical textbook but very complete and up to date.
111. "Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry", 1997, 325 pages. Another pretty technical textbook.
112. "Environmental Soil Chemistry", 1995, 264 pages, Technical textbook
113. "Soil Organic Matter", 1987, 285 pages. Textbook type treatment of organic matter in soils
114. "Soil Organic Matter", 1978, 308 pages. Textbook type treatment of organic matter in soils (NOT the same book as above!)

### **BOOKS ON SOILS**

115. "Essential soil Science", 2002, 198 Pages. Much more understandable version of the books above
116. "Soil Science Simplified", 2001, 216 pages, very understandable book on soil basics
117. "Soil Science Simplified", 2001, 147 pages, very understandable book on soil basics (NOT the same book as above!)
118. "The Soul of the Soil", 1999, 170 pages, very understandable book on soil basics
119. "Successful Sandy Soil Gardening", 1981, 160 pages. Simple general gardening book with an emphasis on sandy soils. It doesn't include advice on shell or limestone soils.
120. "Gardening Success with Difficult Soils", 1992, 216 pages, Good book for those trying to cope with alkaline limestone and chalky shell soils.
121. "Building Soils for Better Crops", 2000, 229 pages. Good book which balances both organic and non-organic farming pretty fairly.

### **HYDROPONICS**

122. "Hydroponics for the Home Gardener", 1992, 142 pages. A fascinating book which will help anyone interested in making a small home hydroponic setup.
123. "The Hydroponic Hothouse", 1992, 174 pages. A general overview off hydroponics in a hot house.
124. "Hydroponics, Soilless Gardening Explained", 2003, 140 pages. If you want to understand what Gene is doing in the greenhouse out back this is the book for you.
125. \* "How-to Hydroponics". 2005, 104 pages. A huge amount of material in a small book. It has clear directions on how to build several "do-it yourself" systems for indoors.
126. "Gardening Indoors with Soil and Hydroponics", 2008, 370 pages. The title is a little misleading as this is a book for all types of growing media and all types of systems amenable to hydroponics on a small scale. Lots of excellent photographs and chock full of information.

## TRAVEL GUIDES FOR FLORIDA

127. "Exploring Florida's Botanical Wonders", 2009, 277 pages. A guide to any and all botanical gardens and parks in Florida. The number is overwhelming! And the descriptions bring desire to any true gardener who likes to see plants and gardens.
128. \* "Exploring Wild South Florida", 2002, 326 pages. If you want to explore the native areas and parks of South Florida this is the book for you.
129. "The Springs of Florida", 1994, 112 pages. North Florida has a series of the largest natural springs in the world which are fascinating to visit and to canoe. This book gives information on each spring.
130. "Florida Parks, A Guide to Camping in Nature" 1989, 256 pages. If you own a camper and want to commune with nature in Florida this is the book for you. It gives the parks by the section of the state you're in so one doesn't have to search for gems which are easily visited from LaBelle.

## THE FRAGRANT GARDEN

131. "The Scented Garden", 1992, 99 pages. Easily 50% of the plants in this book are not really that "scented" (walnut?) and it doesn't talk a lot about culture of scented plants. Nice photographs but a disappointment as a book.
132. "The Fragrant Garden", 2005, 159 pages. More a book about using plants in aromatherapy, potpourri and the like than a good book on how to raise fragrant plants.

## BONSAI

133. "Bonsai Basics", 1992, 120 pages. A very basic book for the beginner in this extremely time consuming method of gardening. Bonsai requires careful daily tending and can tie you down as much as having a dog.
134. "Simon and Schuster's Guide to Bonsai", 1990, 256 pages. The first half of the book is a very good primer on exactly how the Japanese get the effects that they do and the design principles behind the effects. The second half of the book is a series of some 150 species which are used to make award winning bonsai.
135. "Bonsai Survival Guide", 1996, 157 pages. The first third of the book is a primer on both Chinese and Japanese Bonsai. The second two thirds of the book is excellent two page descriptions and directions for growing the fifty most popular bonsai plants.
136. "The Bonsai Workshop" 1994, 208 pages. This is more of an instruction booklet on how to make a successful bonsai. Loaded with tips and instructions it is the book I would recommend for anyone starting out in bonsai.

**CONTAINER GARDENING.** Because of the intensity of the Florida sun and heat I put this subject right before succulents. Unless you are willing to water a container once a day, container garden on a shaded porch or have very large containers that can hold a lot of water, container gardening in the Florida sun is pretty much limited to succulents. But then because of our really bad soil many people use containers to

make their own mini-environments for special plants and are quite successful at it. They just water frequently

137. "The Practical Guide to Container Gardening", 2001, 160 pages. An excellent general guide to container gardening with a section on plants adaptable to container gardening.
138. "Container Gardening for Dummies" 2006, 174 pages. Written right at my level, a basic book on container gardening.
139. "The Book of Container Gardening", 1991, 191 pages. A good book with many varied types and designs of container gardening.
140. "Complete Guide to Container Gardening", 2010, 224 pages. Much like the book above, a lot of ideas on types of container plantings.
141. "Container Gardening, 250 Design Ideas", 2009, 236 pages. Consider this a design book on how to make beautiful planters. It is full of excellent photos of excellent arrangements.
142. "Can't Miss Container Gardening", 2004, 169 pages. A good general guide to creating and planting containers. It has some inexpensive ways to create containers out of such items as tires.
143. "Creating and Planting Garden Troughs", 199, 161 pages. A guide to the use of a form of concrete called "hypertufa" and how to use it to make homemade planters. This is an inexpensive way to create both small and very large permanent planters.
144. "Succulent Container Gardens", 2010, 248 pages. Consider this a design book for making containers full of succulents. If planted in the proper aquarium gravel mix all these designs would work well as carefree containers in Florida.

**SUCCULENTS** These plants normally wouldn't be thought of for a tropical area such as Florida but we have a dry season of some eight months where there is little or no rainfall. So many people successfully grow succulents and cactus in containers or raised beds.

145. "Succulents", 1998, 64 pages. This small book is unusual in that it hits every succulent family EXCEPT cactus. Since I detest cactus but enjoy many of the other forms of succulents I found this book worthwhile.
146. "Dry Climate Gardening with Succulents", 1995, 224 pages. You normally don't think of Florida as having a dry climate but eight months out of the year we have a "dry season" typically with very little rainfall. So if you supply enough fast drainage dry climate succulents can do quite well here, especially with our sand, shell and marl soils.
147. "Cacti and Succulents", 2006, 189 pages. If you love cactus this is the book for you. It covers any and all types of desert cactus. It does not cover the jungle cactus (cereus, rhipsalis, etc.) but that is a subject for another book.
148. "Cacti and Succulents", 1990, 127 pages. Not the same book as the above but very similar. Gives a lot more information on propagating and grating cacti than the book above.
149. "Crazy About Cacti and Succulents", 2006, 119 pages. A small book that ranges far afield, from using succulents for medicinal purposes to using succulents in bonsai.

**BROMELIADS** These plants are a blessing for Floridians. "Hand-me-down" bromeliads are found in virtually everyone's yard and they can't be killed, even by repeated applications of weed killer (I know, I've tried killing on huge section of weedy bromeliads in my yard and been totally unsuccessful!). Note that this

inherent resistance to weed killers makes them easy plants for Florida gardens as it is easy to kill the weeds sprouting between the bromeliads with herbicides once one realizes the bromeliads will be fine. What many people don't realize is the huge variety and selection they have when it comes to these carefree plants.

150. "Bromeliads for Home and Garden", 2011, 157 pages. A complete guide to growing these plants both inside and outside in Florida. Lots of excellent photographs.
151. "Growing Bromeliads", 1990, 112 pages. Out of Australia, this is an excellent guide to all the various types of bromeliads.
152. "Bromeliads, a Connoisseur's Guide". 2007, 400 pages. Just page after page of beautiful photographs of beautiful plants. Don't read this book unless you're prepared to get hooked by this gorgeous family of plants and become a member of the local bromeliad society.

## **ORCHIDS**

153. "Orchids, an Illustrated Identifier and Guide to Cultivation", 1990, 90 pages. A 'coffee table' book full of beautiful photographs of orchids and some cultivation advice
154. "Orchids for Everyone", 1987, 206 pages. A compendium of "how to" advice on growing some of the easier orchids to grow in the home or on the patio.
155. "Orchids to Know and Grow", 2007, 283 pages. This book makes growing orchids easy, as it should be. Orchids thrive on neglect and more are killed by too much care than not enough care.
156. "100 orchids for Florida", 2006, 119 pages. The orchids in this book were specifically chosen for the climate of Florida and their ease of cultivation
157. "Wild Orchids of Florida", 395 pages. A complete book listing what appears to be each and every wild Florida orchid. Each orchid is accompanied by photographs and a description.

## **GARDEN PROJECTS**

158. "Step by Step Landscaping", 2007, 406 pages. This is not a landscaping design book. Rather it is a whole series of "honey-dos" or projects from gazebos to raised beds to fences.
159. "Landscaping for Dummies", 1999, 348 pages. Much like above, this is a "how to" book of yard and garden projects with a little design and a little plant advice thrown in. If you want a patio and want to know how to make it, this is for you.
160. "Ortho Sprinklers and Drip Systems", 1998, 96 pages. A "do it yourself" book on irrigation systems geared towards the handyman.
161. "Scotts Sprinklers and Watering Systems", 2005, 192 pages. Much like the book above only with more options and more variety.

## **MISCELLANIOUS**

162. "Roots Demystified", 2008, 164 Pages. An excellent book any serious gardener needs to read. It is chock full of very useful information.

163. "Decoding Gardening Advice", 2012, 223 pages. A good basic book for any novice gardener.
164. "Variegated Plants, The Encyclopedia of Patterned Foliage", 1995, 185 pages. Anyone who has ever seen my front yard know I love variegated foliage plants with leaves of any and all colors. So this is one of my favorite books even though many of the plants in it must be grown further North than LaBelle.
165. "Coleus: Rainbow Foliage for Containers and Gardens", 227 pages, A lot of excellent photographs of this excellent and inexpensive colorful plant. All the different varieties. Coleus are not carefree plants and do need fertilization and attention. And they need to be kept indoors as cuttings during the LaBelle winters.
166. \* "Amaranth to Zai Holes", 1996, 400 pages. A book put out by ECHO in North Fort Myers which discusses ideas for growing food under difficult conditions. Fascinating reading. And actually much of it applies to the extremely poor sandy and shell soils many of us have to work with (for instance, it has an excellent section on cover crops in tropical climates).
167. \* "Square Foot Gardening" 1981, 344 pages. This book is actually very useful in Florida as it is all about gardening in raised beds. Virtually all gardeners in LaBelle have very poor soil and many have problems with flooding of yards. Raised beds are an excellent solution to these problems.
168. "Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravaganza", 2009, 152 pages. I found this to be a disappointing book which talked mainly about the taxa and species of Adenium rather than the culture of the commonly cultivated form of the garden desert rose. Even though a 2009 book it only includes two double desert roses in its hundreds of photos, even though this is now almost the norm for desert roses.
169. "What's wrong with my plant (and how do I fix it)", 2009, 449 pages. An excellent guide with excellent color diagrams and photos of every imaginable plant problem. The book is an "organic only" book so remedies are a little weak. Some bugs and diseases unfortunately require non-organic remedies.
170. "Gardening Indoors", 2002, 346 pages. A very thorough book covering all aspects of growing plants indoors under lights. The only book I could find on the subject which wasn't directly geared towards marijuana growing. And some comments in the book lead me to believe it might well be geared towards growing marijuana (such as the paragraph on how to explain your higher electric bills to the authorities; "I just put in a hot tub" and the various ways to prevent your lights from being seen from outside the home).

\*Pat Johnson's Books contributed to the library

It is also possible to make extensive use of the University of Florida data available over the Internet, especially the materials specific to Hendry County written by the esteemed Gene McAvoy. I used his recommendations to purchase my blueberry bushes for growing in large pots. Note that I consider the University of Florida and its extension office data the only reliable data on the Internet. Much of the rest is highly questionable with the possible exception of "davesgarden.com" (No, "dave" is not me!). Especially helpful is the on-line book on Master Gardening in South Florida at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/features/handbooks/MGHSouth.html#2>

Note that anyone generous enough can either donate books directly to me for the library or just notify me of what they are willing to loan out and I will take care of the paperwork. Note also that I have written for my own use several extremely wordy biased pedantic articles on "lawn fertilizing", "fertilizing anything", "growing media for containers", "desert rose care", "seed starting containers", "cuttings", "hypertufa planters", "seed starting", "LaBelle climate", "blueberries", "landscaping principles (PowerPoint)", "compost heaps (PowerPoint)", "organic gardening (PowerPoint)" and "native plants for Labelle to attract birds". At my age I think best (and remember best!) when I write things down so these were the result of those efforts. These write-ups are available on the LaBelle Garden Club website (remember, I am a chemical engineer and an obsessive compulsive perfectionist when it comes to gardening). David Bogert