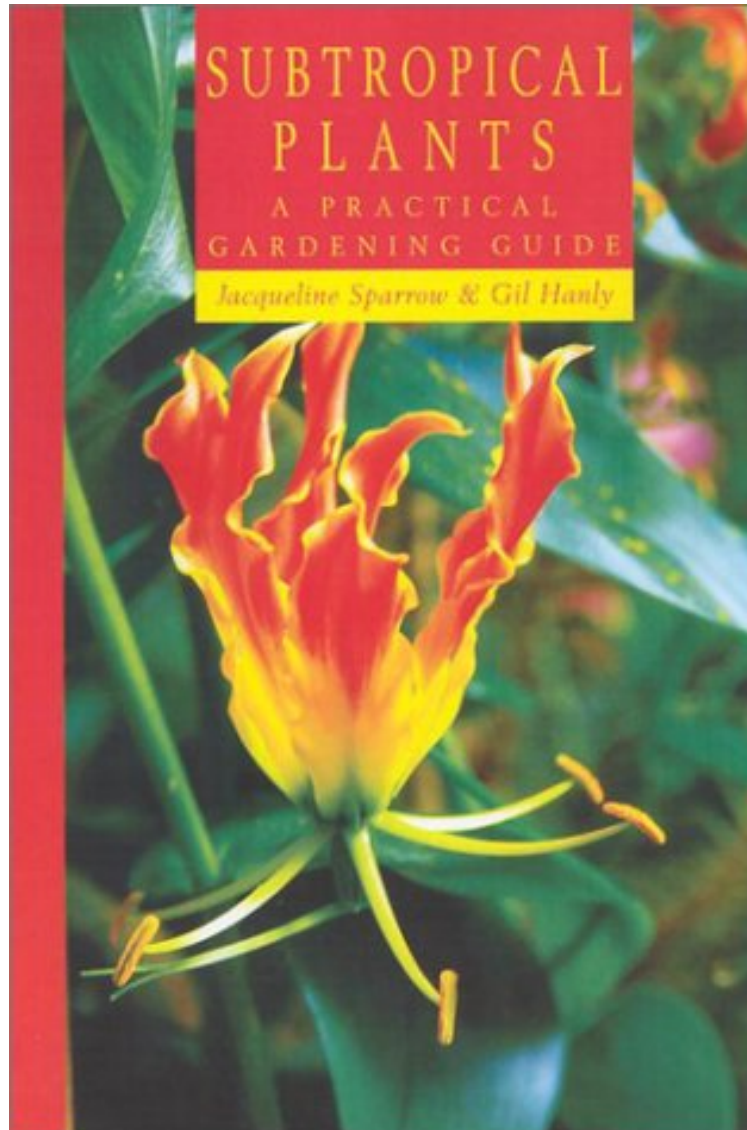


## Subtropical Plants: A Practical Gardening Guide

*Jacqueline Sparrow, Gil Hanly*  
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**Jacqueline Sparrow, Gil Hanly : Subtropical Plants: A Practical Gardening Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Subtropical Plants: A Practical Gardening Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a very good book to read and I would recommend it to ...By ORVAL HILL This is a very good book to read and I would recommend it to ever person that is interested in gardening to read it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Subtropical plants By James Quirk This book is very good. It is more limited than I had hoped but for what it has it is good. 10 of 10 people found the following review

helpful. Lovely pictures, sketchy information. By Steve97415 *Subtropical Plants* is a lovely picture book of familiar tropical and subtropical plants. I don't endorse the subtitle: it is more a picture dictionary than a "practical gardening guide". I bought the book largely on the strength of the excellent "Subtropical Gardening", a book that I thought had been put together by the same team (same photographer, different writer, as it turns out). The difference in the names of the titles points out the difference in the scopes of the books. *Subtropical Gardening* is about gardening in a subtropical style and includes the notion that plants that are not of subtropical provenance can still be used to lend the subtropical effect. *Subtropical Plants* is about plants that are subtropical or tropical by their very constitution. Sadly, many interesting New Zealand plants are left out (there are no tree ferns, for instance) while more assertively tropical genera like *Colvillea*, *Delonix* and *Artocarpus* are given full treatment. Perhaps the biggest downfall of the book is that full hardiness is presumed for all and there is little discussion as to the climatic limitations of the various plants. This makes it particularly difficult to use in countries like the U.S., where there is a broad variety of climates in which "subtropical" gardening is carried out. The pictures are generally quite good, but focus on individual plants rather than broad garden vistas. Several are re-crops from "Subtropical Gardening". One of the amusing editorial goofs in this book is that some computer glitch causes the letters "us" to be transformed to "United States" in several cases. For example, under *Araucaria*, the paragraph begins, "Sturdy giant conifers make up this genUnited States,...". Under *Hymenosporum* the paragraph begins, "From subtropical rainforest of eastern AUnited Statestralia and New Guinea,...". I'm always amazed that such obvious mistakes aren't caught by proof-readers and I'm down-grading it a star on account of the sloppy editing.

Illustrated with 200 color photos, this book offers practical guidance to gardening with the increasingly popular subtropical and tropical plants. The authors describe and provide cultivation information for a wide selection of plants, including palms, orchids, cacti, and bromeliads.

From Booklist An intriguing realm of exotic plants comes together in Sparrow's user-friendly guide aimed at introducing gardeners to subtropical and choice tropical specimens. Arranged according to groups such as trees, tender perennials, bulbs, succulents, bromeliads, and orchids, these plants promise to bring an unparalleled panache to warm climate gardens or offer knockout performances in seasonal summer displays. A convenient format allows easy access to information on plant material ranging from fluffy flowering acacias and the bold silhouettes of palms to the extravagant perfumed trumpets of shrubs like *brugmansias*. Structural plant material gives way to categories of plants offering lavish foliage and vibrant blooms, including fruiting specimens like bananas with lush leaves and giant-sized pelican flowers decorating vigorous vines. Species are accorded brief descriptions, while Hanly's accompanying photographs capture all sorts of striking foliage effects and uncompromising floral accents to inspire plant lovers and pique the interest of gardening newcomers. Alice Joyce Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Provides an elegantly and precisely written introduction to the many ornamental plants grown in subtropical regions of the world." -- Book News, October 3, 2002 From the Publisher Brilliantly colorful and luxuriant, subtropical and tropical-style gardens are highly popular and becoming increasingly so. This practical book is a guide not only to the range of attractive subtropicals but also to selected tropical plants that can be grown in subtropical areas. It includes trees and shrubs, palms and cycads, climbers, orchids, bulbs and perennials, cacti and succulents, bromeliads, and a selection of fruit. Descriptions and cultivation information are given for each species. The book is illustrated throughout with 200 color photographs, making it an important addition to the gardeners reference library.