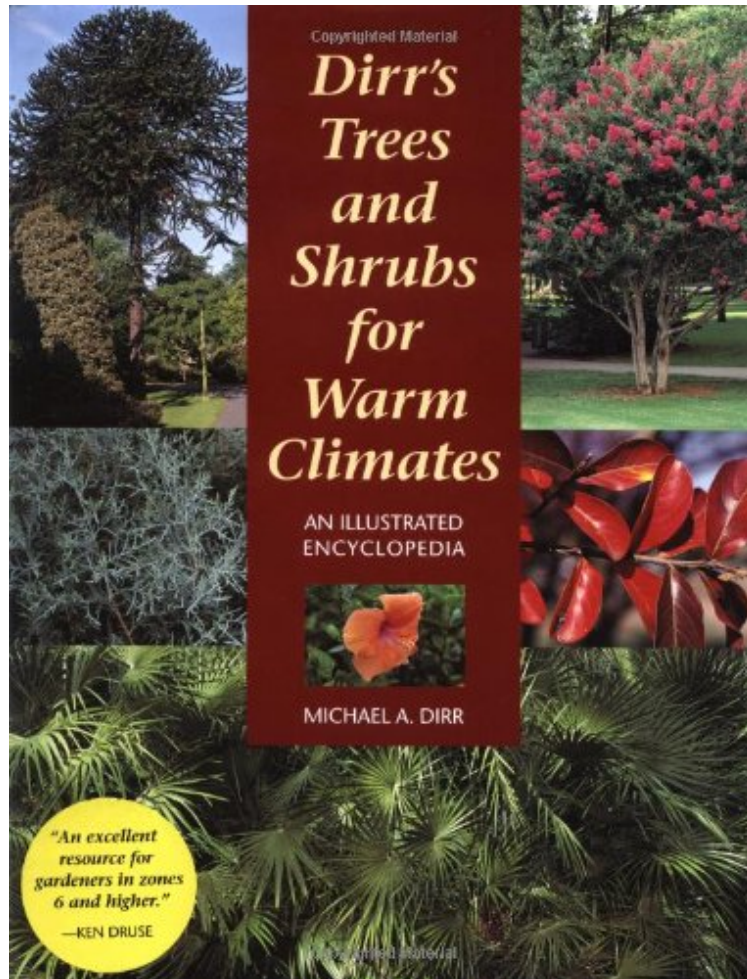


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# Durr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates: An Illustrated Encyclopedia

Michael A. Durr

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**Michael A. Durr : Durr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates: An Illustrated Encyclopedia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Durr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates: An Illustrated Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. High quality, but incompleteBy Owen SmithHaving learned a great deal from Durr's other books while living in the midwest, it was with great anticipation that I recently opened a new copy of Durr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates. Much to my dismay, the first 3 familiar trees I looked up weren't in the book! In my yard I have a wonderful 20', evergreen, cold-hardy Xylosma tree: not covered. Having propagated dozens of beautiful Myoporums in Santa Barbara, surely I could learn of their cold hardiness for northern California: not covered. Currently I'm considering a 'marina' Arbutus hybrid for my zone 9b front yard, a popular tree in local

nurseries: not covered. While Dirr has supplied a lot of great information about the species he's chosen to cover in a high quality format, he clearly has not done his homework on many of the most important cultivars, and has excluded them from this book. Also, his lists for specific landscaping situations are helpful, but could be far more useful if other variables were included in tabular form, such as size, climate zone, etc. If you're involved in important landscaping decisions, you'll need other sources to make an informed decision. I hope Mr. Dirr will publish an expanded and revised edition of this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Totally on par with *Hardy Trees and Shrubs*. By Myreview I had read reviews that were not that favorable, that this book was substandard for Dirr but I disagree. Having formerly lived in the Northeast and now in the South, I needed a reference for all things (trees, shrubs, vines) that thrive in my new environment. *Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates* completely fills the bill. Like *Hardy Trees*, *Warm Climates* is full of detailed pictures, text that informs as well as amuses and Dirr's frank opinions about which plants are many faceted, beneficial additions to the garden and which are better voted off the program. A bonus for me was the addition of photos that show the beginning of Dirr's own home garden through to maturity and expansion. In an area which seasons summer, summer, late summer and fall reign, this book is a must for the gardener's home library.

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. A necessity for Southeastern US gardeners. By Mike in PDX In this book, our leading expert on woody plants gives brief descriptions and excellent photos of many of those suited for warm climates. As noted by another reviewer, the selection is more complete for the humid Southeast (of the U.S.) than it is for California and other Mediterranean climates. However, I expect that all warm-climate gardeners will find much of value. It is important to note that this book complements Dirr's two other major efforts on woody plants: his *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* and a photographic volume (similar to this one) called *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs*. The *Manual* provides more detailed taxonomic and cultural information (including info on propagation), but has line drawings of foliage only. The two photographic books cover most woody plants suited to the U.S. There is no overlap between the photographic books, which is why redbud and dogwood aren't found in this volume, as noted by a previous reviewer. They are hardy, and they are in *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs*. This book is invaluable for seeing what mature specimens of these plants will look like and for Dirr's always interesting comments on suitable uses and culture. Highly recommended.

Following the phenomenal success of *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs*, written for gardeners in the climates of USDA zones 3-6, this companion volume is a superlative photographic encyclopedia of trees, shrubs, and vines for "warm temperate" zones. In North America, these areas (zones 7-11) stretch from the Mid-Atlantic states to the South, include most of Texas and the Southwest, and encompass the entire West Coast, up to western Canada. Many parts of the British Isles, Australia, and New Zealand experience similar conditions. In a nutshell, any gardener who lives in an area where average winter temperatures do not fall below 0 Fahrenheit (-18 Celsius) will want this book, and curious gardeners in colder zones may well want to test these select plants in their local microclimates. This remarkable volume shows both the habit and details—flower, fruit, bark, fall color—of more than 400 species and describes hundreds more cultivars and varieties. Certain genera offer myriad hybrids and selections, and photographs of many of the best of these are included as well—nearly 40 named crapemyrtles, a dozen teaolives, and 11 loropetalums. In all, more than 1400 photographs join with the authoritative text to bring the plants to life. From *Abelia* to *Ziziphus*, gardeners will encounter many new and unfamiliar plants that thrive in warmer climates. Dirr gives special attention to hardy palms that can survive outside the subtropics. The book also reflects the author's inimitable personality, which holds nothing back when a plant deserves outright acclaim ("If prescriptions could be written for perfect garden plants, this species would come close to filling the order"), backhanded praise ("Use for accent, for novelty, or to drive visitors loony"), or frank condemnation ("Spreads to the point of no redemption with time"). The book concludes with useful lists for selecting plants for a variety of conditions or for ornamental characteristics, such as flower color and fragrance, fruit, and fall color.

From *Library Journal* A professor of horticulture and the author of ten books, including the well-known *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, Dirr (Univ. of Georgia) here presents an encyclopedia with more than 1400 beautiful photographs, personal observations of over 400 species, and hundreds more cultivars and varieties of trees, shrubs, and vines that grow in the temperate zones of the Southeast. Intended as a companion volume to *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, this new book will be useful to landscapers, garden designers, horticulturalists, and home gardeners located in the South, as well as the West Coast through British Columbia. Dirr also includes a section on cold-hardy palms that will survive in growing zones 7-11. What sets this book apart from many other botanical encyclopedias is the author's personal writing style, which breathes life into the text. Each plant is described in detail, showing flower, fruit, bark, fall color, and any other distinguishing characteristics. Easy-to-read entries may also include the author's individual experience with the plant, recommended cultural requirements, and growing habits. This practical and comprehensive work indicates whatever unique features a plant has to offer in the garden, both aesthetically and economically. Useful appendixes aid in selection of plants by their various characteristics. Dirr's encyclopedia is strongly and unhesitatingly recommended as a basic reference resource for both public and academic

libraries, especially in the relevant growing zones. Deborah Anne Broocker, Georgia Perimeter Coll., Dunwoody  
Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Durr's previous book, *Hardy Trees and Shrubs*  
(1997), has proven to be such an invaluable guide to selecting garden specimens that his latest merits special attention.  
The same excellent format is repeated; in this case, nearly 1,500 photographs illustrate species and cultivars for  
southern and West Coast gardens. The accompanying text melds equal parts savvy counsel and accessible,  
enlightening descriptions that promise to steer gardeners at all levels to making informed choices when picking out  
trees and shrubs for a given space or habitat. Bark, berries, and blooms are pointed out, along with each plant's form  
and foliage, and plant lists provide handy references for specific characteristics. No other writer on gardening speaks  
to the subject with Durr's experience, acumen, and ability to instruct. Simply indispensable. Alice Joyce Copyright  
American Library Association. All rights reserved An extraordinary book with wonderful photographs. -- *Garden  
Specialist*, February/March 2002 Another Mike Durr success. Make this book your companion when searching for the  
best woody species for warm climates. -- *Southern Living*, Spring 2002 Cannot be too highly recommended. -- *The  
Avant Gardener*, June 2002 Durr's *Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates* is a 'must have' book on trees and shrubs. --  
Win Dunwell, February *Hort Memo*, Univ. of Kentucky, February 2002 If you live in a warm climate and grow woody  
plants, you must own it! -- Scott Ranger, *The American Gardener*, July/August 2002 Probably the finest photographic  
collection of warm temperate trees and shrubs ever produced. -- *Agroforestry News*, July 2002 [Durr's *Trees and Shrubs  
for Warm Climates*] is sure to become one that Southern gardeners will keep close at hand. -- Cynthia W. Mueller, *The  
Southern Garden*