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Growing Fruits, Berries and Nuts: Southwest-Southeast

George Ray McEachern
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#3249588 in Books 1990-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.72 x 8.23 x .33l, #File Name: 0884150402100 pages | File size: 70.Mb

George Ray McEachern : Growing Fruits, Berries and Nuts: Southwest-Southeast before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Growing Fruits, Berries and Nuts: Southwest-Southeast:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best BuyBy ORRNBobbyVery interesting and informative book.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. My Favorite Southern Gardening BookBy James WIf there's a drawback to this book, it's that there's not a more recent edition than the 1990 2nd edition. It was written by a Texas Agricultural Extension agent, and is intended for small for-profit growers. No glossy photos, but you won't miss them.The best thing about it is that it's written specifically for the Southeast and Southwest U.S. Other good sources are books by Walter Reeves and Southern Living magazine publications, but so far this is the best one I've found on fruits, nuts, berries.It's divided into 10 chapters:1) What You Must Know to Begin (this is a lot of basic information packed into 20 pages)2) Pest Control (alas, chemical-oriented)3) Stone Fruits: Peaches, Plums, Apricots Sour Cherries (peaches!)4) Pome Fruits: Apples, Pears Quince (best reference I've run across on pears in the South)5) Berries: Blackberries, Blueberries Strawberries (an excellent reference for blackberries and rabbiteye blueberries)6) Vines: Grapes, Muscadines Kiwifruit (Easy-to-understand propagation pruning for grapes muscadines. The Kiwi section may need updating - I think there's at least one successful planting just south of Macon, Ga.)7) Nuts: Pecans, Black Walnuts, English Walnuts, Almonds, Chestnuts Pistachios (lots about pecans, but don't get excited about the Almonds Pistachios)8) Subtropical Fruits: Citrus, Figs, Persimmons Olives (a great section on figs. Good basic information on

citrus, but you can buy whole books on those.)9) Wild Fruits, Berries Nuts and Other Crops (plums, dewberries, American persimmons, pomegranates, etc.)10) Fruit Management References (pre-internet, so a little dated.)Chapters 3-9 cover details for each of the plants. This usually includes most of the following topics, depending on the individual plants:climate, soil, varieties (good and bad by local area), propagation, planting, spacing, pruning, training, weed control, fertilizer, pests, thinning, harvest, pollination, mulch, irrigation, cold protection, and special requirementsThe discussions on the varieties can be a great help, and it's indespensable if you're getting plants from a big home center -- they often stock completely inappropriate varieties for the location. You'll have to go to ag extension websites to check on the newer varieties though.If you're thinking about growing any fruits, nuts, or berries in the Southeast, this is a must-have book.