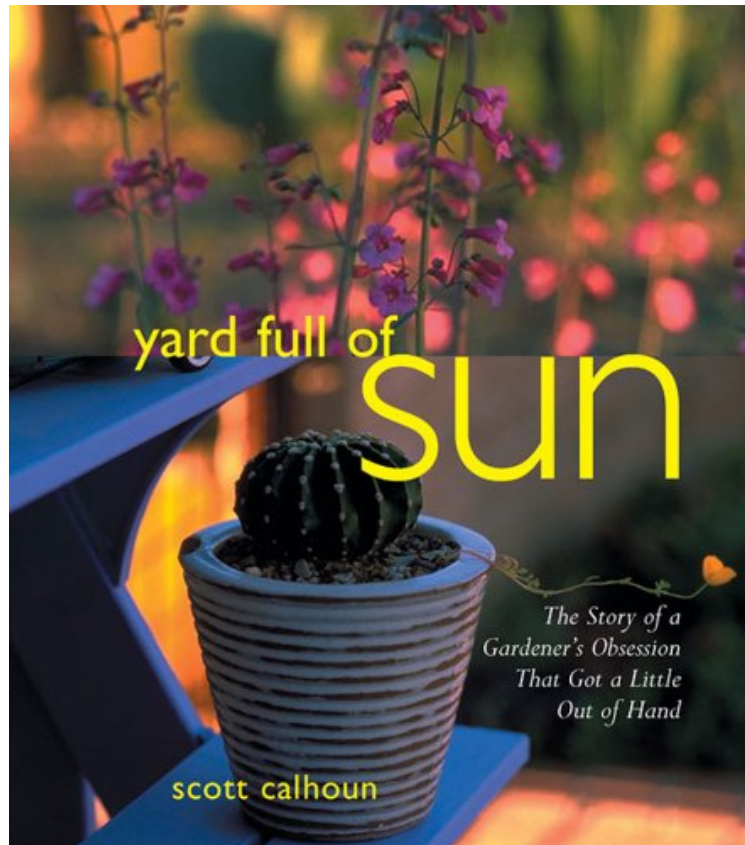


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## Yard Full of Sun: The Story of a Gardener's Obsession That Got a Little Out of Hand

Scott Calhoun

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**Scott Calhoun : Yard Full of Sun: The Story of a Gardener's Obsession That Got a Little Out of Hand** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Yard Full of Sun: The Story of a Gardener's Obsession That Got a Little Out of Hand:

34 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Innovative methods for conservation and beautification using native plants.By james marshallI have lived in Phoenix for 25 years. I have a large lot and little success in landscaping. If it looked good it took too much time to maintain and my water bills were sky high. What to do? After 6 weeks in a wheelchair and an irrigation failure I happened on Scott Calhoun's book. He has so many new and practical ideas that will produce a good looking landscape and not be a slave to it. Living in Tucson, he is very savvy about conserving water more than we are in Phoenix. He talks about harvesting water and grading a property to better direct rainfall to planting beds. New ideas for me. I am really quite excited about the opportunities that I recognize now from reading this book.Oh and if that isn't enough, the book is quite beautiful. Lots of color photography. Many plant varieties are pictured. The writer generously shares his experience of learning about building a "green" home and surrounding it with a true Sonoran desert landscape.I have lots of books on desert gardening and they all have merit.This is the first

one that has given me a new insight into where I live and my responsibility to the ecology of my spot in the desert. A true inspiration to me. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read. I'm a newcomer to Arizona (from Philadelphia) ...By sharyn bearseGreat read. I'm a newcomer to Arizona (from Philadelphia) and knew nothing at all at southwest gardening. The narrative moved smartly along, but I learned a lot about the most common species to use in my garden. Especially have come to appreciate the sculptural beauty of Agaves. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Great SurpriseBy Jeannine K. Daniell didn't think I would enjoy a "story" of a gardener in the Southwest but the author is so entertaining in his writing. I could relate to so many aspects of working in my yard in the hot Arizona desert. His ideas are creative and refreshing and just a joy to read through. Lots of very useful information also and I am hooked on this author. Thanks for writing this "feel good, factual book".

In spite of living in the Sonoran Desert renowned gardening expert Scott Calhoun has created a lush and vibrant paradise in his own back yard. *Yard Full of Sun: The Story of a Gardener's Obsession That Got a Little Out of Hand* is the perfect guide to extreme gardening and shows that a little dedication can go a long way.

From Publishers WeeklyMemoir and how-to work side by side to excellent effect in this chronicle of a family's horticultural odyssey. Calhounan accomplished gardener, manager of a Tucson nursery and fourth-generation Arizonianwas determined to create a garden using native plants, a space that would serve as a "response to a powerful sun moving across a big sky." Beautiful, bright photos complement the author's loving descriptions of the plants' attributes and origins. He shares the methods he and his wife used to brainstorm their garden's layout, feel and contents, and offers detailed supply lists as well. Calhoun's sometimes unorthodox methods of acquiring flora and fauna make for good copy; the prairie zinnia escapade (in which he decides to appropriate wildflowers growing across the street from a police department) is one winning example. Though detail is plentiful, from rainfall statistics to prickly pear varieties, the text maintains a balance between practical and personal. Calhoun's apparent affinity for similes adds personality; for example, "Mesquite trees are as promiscuous as a single mother of six kids with different fathers making an appearance on Jerry Springer." Though most useful for readers living in the Southwest, the book's humor and autobiographical aspects broaden its appeal. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Calhoun makes a passionate plea for wildness and nativism in southwestern gardens while telling the story of his own garden. --A la Mode Magazine, Tim HullThis gardener's in love with his world. Readers can't help but to fall in love with it too. --Dirt: A Garden Journal from the Connecticut River Valley, Paula PanichAbout the AuthorScott Calhoun is the author of *The Hot Garden*, *Yard Full of Sun* (which was a 2006 American Horticultural Society Book of the Year), and *Chasing Wildflowers*, which was a winner of the Garden Writers Association 2008 Silver Award of Achievement. A full time freelancer maintaining a rigorous schedule, Calhoun works as a writer, teacher, and garden designer. His company, Zona Gardens, is located in Tucson, Arizona.