

Tracy DiSabato-Aust



By Jeff Gustin, Producer Garden Time TV

Few people we have met in the last 5 or 6 years have the passion for perennials like Tracy DiSabato-Aust. Tracy was recently in Portland to talk about her new book, '50 High-Impact, Low-Care Garden Plants'. Tracy is affectionately called the 'Queen of Deadheading' because of her passion for perennials.

Tracy found her passion in High School and fell in love with houseplants. That led to college and a job at a garden center. And that started a journey that took her to garden centers in the US and Europe.

During her professional career that has spanned over 30 years, Tracy has been involved in growing, garden retail and garden design, so when she writes, she tries to 'break it down' and make it easy for the home gardener. Her latest work had her looking at plants that were gorgeous, sustainable, and easy to grow, with as little maintenance as possible. Part of her focus was for selfish reasons. Tracy is a competitive tri-athlete and when she was traveling her garden would sometimes get out of hand. So she ended up looking for plants that gave her all 'the bling without the sting'. She found lots of different plants that met most if not all of her criteria without breaking her budget. In her new book, some of her favorites included Golden variegated

"This book proves that low-maintenance doesn't mean low-interest. Tracy has packed the book with traffic-stopping garden stars that require low care and less fuss." - P. ALLEN SMITH

TRACY DISABATO-AUST 50 High-Impact, Low-Care Garden Plants



Tough-but-Beautiful Plants That Anyone Can Grow



sweet flag, hellebores, spiny bear's breeches and fern leaf fullmoon maple. If you look up these plants you will notice that they are in various shapes and sizes, and that follows along with ideas that she covered in one of her previous books, 'The Well-Designed Mixed Garden'. Her thought is that you can have a great mixed garden that requires little or no maintenance.

Tracy feels that her approach to 'all-inclusive, easy to do' gardening is the best way to get people excited about gardening. People's lives have become busier. We are tied to our laptops, our PDA's and our cell phones. That means we are losing touch with nature and living healthy. Gardening 'simply' helps us get back in touch with nature and good things we have forgotten. Her overriding philosophy is to have fun. To achieve that, all you need to think about is the soil, the sun and the plants. Once you know the needs of all 3 of those you can't help but be a successful gardener.

So many lovely choices to bring a little bit of beauty to our gray winters, and lots of style for our containers and shady landscapes the rest of the year.