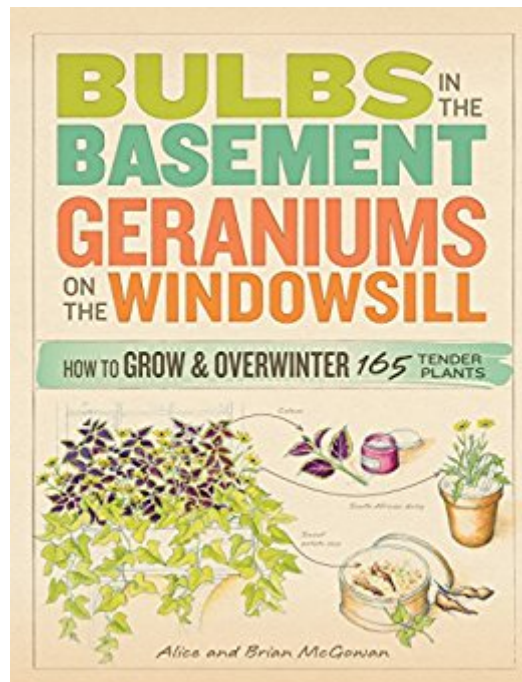


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# Bulbs In The Basement, Geraniums On The Windowsill: How To Grow & Overwinter 165 Tender Plants



## Synopsis

Cooler-zone gardeners are discovering that with a little wintertime care, plants that have long been considered "annuals" can thrive for years. These plants — including geraniums, gladioli, dahlias, begonias, rosemary, lavender, snapdragons, and even impatiens — aren't annuals at all. Rather, they are tender perennials. They aren't hardy enough to survive winter on their own, but they can be moved indoors during the cold months and then returned to the garden in spring. Many are even more beautiful in their second and third years! Bulbs in the Basement, Geraniums on the Windowsill is the first comprehensive resource on the care and maintenance of tender plants. In this zone-defying guide, you'll find simple techniques for overwintering, along with 160 detailed plant profiles that include individualized advice for overwintering and indoor care. With this practical guide, you can enjoy your favorite plants year after year, no matter where you live!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book answers the many questions that gardeners have who wish to carry over their tender plants from one year to another. Why throw away those lovely geraniums and dahlias and tender

bulbs when they can be grown and flowered over and over. Look at it as a very environmentally friendly practice that doesn't require recycling your hard-earned dollars. And these suggestions are not gotten from other sources like many books written by so-called professionals. They are gleaned from actual experience gained from years of bringing many previously thrown away plants back into bloom.

What a great idea for a book. Thank YOU, Alice and Brian! I was lucky enough to visit their nursery in slightly western Mass. a number of times and really appreciate that a lot of what they had to share then is in easy reference book form now. (In fact, I have a scented geranium that's the great-great-grandson of a purchase from them still.) There are lots of books that cover perennials, tender and otherwise, but they never seem to understand that not all gardeners live in California or have massive greenhouses. Alice details what constitutes sunny & warm vs. cool & bright so it's easy to figure out which corner or window in the house will best suit. Skeptic that I am, I checked first on her recommendations for the ones I've successfully overwintered: Agreed (tho I scored last year with my fuchsia when I trained a fan on them for air movement). Then I looked up the ones I'm edging toward the porch right now to figure out how to save them this winter. Ah: Move the lemon away from the hot window and into the cooler living room. Check. I highly recommend this book for those who want a pretty simple guide to propagation too -- as Alice writes, "overwintering small plants...is actually a lower-maintenance alternative." Great book, and certainly not just for us miserly New Englanders!

Got this for Christmas, and I know I will use it a lot. Am already debating which tender perennials to try for 2009. Thunbergia alata? Moonflower? And who knew that Salvia guaranitica and mirabilis can be overwintered as tubers? This book is a godsend in an economy where dollars must be stretched.

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