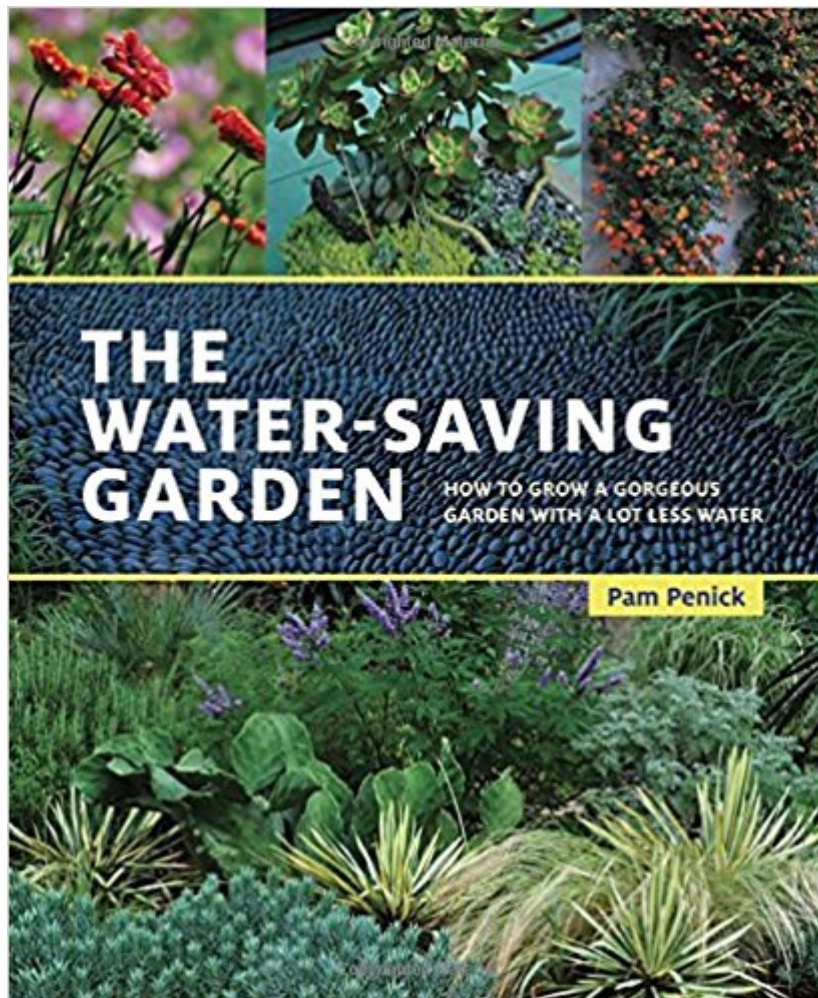




The book was found

The Water-Saving Garden: How To Grow A Gorgeous Garden With A Lot Less Water



Synopsis

A guide to growing beautiful gardens in drought-prone areas utilizing minimal water for maximum results. With climate change, water rationing, and drought on the rise, conserving water is more important than ever—but that doesn't mean your gardening options are limited to cacti and rocks. The Water-Saving Garden provides gardeners and homeowners with a diverse array of techniques and plentiful inspiration for creating outdoor spaces that are so beautiful and inviting, it's hard to believe they are water-thrifty. Including a directory of 100 plants appropriate for a variety of drought-prone regions of the country, this accessible and contemporary guide is full of must-know information on popular gardening topics like native and drought-tolerant plants, rainwater harvesting, greywater systems, permeable paving, and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Penick (Lawn Gone!) proves that conserving water does not mean giving up gardening with her engaging, instructing, and nudging treatise. She approaches the politics of water conservation firmly and frankly, especially in her powerful introduction, asserting that ‘there’s no one “right way” to plant a garden that saves water.’...Penick is practical and reassuring throughout, convincing readers that vibrant water-saving gardens are viable.” Publishers Weekly
“In an era of drought and unpredictable weather patterns, THE WATER-SAVING GARDEN could not come at a better time. With striking photographs and a designer’s eye, Penick shows us just how gorgeous a water-wise garden can be. This is the must-have garden book of the

year! — Amy Stewart, author of *The Drunken Botanist* and *Wicked Plants* — “For those interested in both beautiful gardens and being good stewards of our precious water resources, *The Water-Saving Garden* is a timely must-read. — Jim Peterson, Publisher, *Garden Design Magazine* — “Packed with design inspiration as well as practical advice, this timely book is a much-needed resource on creating and maintaining beautiful gardens with less water. — Susan Morrison, Landscape designer and co-author of *Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small Spaces* — “From eye-popping design — regardless of budget — to nitty-gritty DIY details, *The Water-Saving Garden* takes us down the creative path to gorgeous gardens that spare the water and pump up our style. Purpose, practicality, and passion: it’s all right here. — Linda Lehmusvirta, Producer of *Central Texas Gardener* on Austin PBS — “The *Water-Saving Garden* blends a passionate homage to water’s importance for all life with practical, detailed advice about using less of it in the garden. Illustrations show enticingly diverse gardens and water-wise alternatives to lawns. — Evelyn Hadden, author of *Hellstrip Gardening* and *Beautiful No-Mow Yards* — “In *The Water-Saving Garden*, Pam Penick repositions water-conscious gardens as a central concern for all gardeners. Rich with inspiring examples and sage advice, this book boldly declares that water-wise gardens no longer need to be about sacrifice or compromise, but pleasure and abundance. An excellent resource for gardens in any climate. — Thomas Rainer, landscape architect and co-author of *Planting in a Post-Wild World* — “We all need access to nature for our well-being. Pam Penick has written a useful guide for creating beautiful gardens where saving water naturally follows. — Steve Martino, landscape architect — “In an era of drought and unpredictable weather patterns, *The Water-Saving Garden* could not come at a better time. With striking photographs and a designer’s eye, Penick shows us just how gorgeous a water-wise garden can be. This is the must-have garden book of the year! — Amy Stewart, author of *The Drunken Botanist* and *Wicked Plants*

PAM PENICK is a garden designer, award-winning blogger, and the author of *Lawn Gone!* She is a contributor to such magazines as *Fine Gardening*, *Organic Life*, and *Garden Design*, and has received several writing awards from the Garden Writers Association. She lives and gardens in water-challenged Austin, Texas.

It was disappointing for a desert gardener. The photos are of gardens in more moderate climates.

Also, very few plants were identified with their latin names which are necessary if you want to research them or locate them to purchase. Common names often are the same for several different plants. Just knowing something is a succulent or in a certain genus is little help. Plants should be identified by genus and species.

The first pages of some gardening books are filled with fluff that seems to have been written just to make the book longer. I sometimes flip through introductions and first chapters quickly without reading just to get to the meat of the book. Not this one! I read every single word of *The Water Saving Garden*. From beginning to end, Penick's book about wise use of water in the garden was full of ideas and information. It was obvious to me that she had firsthand experience with the techniques she describes as well as with the drought tolerant plants she recommends. The major themes are changing our idea of beauty to one that is not as flowery, accepting plants that will survive dry periods with only occasional watering in order to use less water, and using hardscape to reduce areas that need water. By organizing ideas into chapters on design ideas, water retention, planting technique, adding the illusion of water, and plant selection, she made the book easy to reference and to use. The last section on plants gives short descriptions of 100 drought tolerant trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, groundcovers, bulbs, and annuals that will save gardeners time spent in plant selection. I really liked the section on hardscape choices - paths, patios, decks, walls, fences, gravel, boulders, and artifacts never need to be watered! For example, half buried loosely arranged boulders look good, help retain and slow down water, and provide planting pockets. She gives many examples of artistic ideas, such as a dry creek bed, pebble mosaics, spilling plants like *Dichondra argentea*, raked gravel, and grouping plants, evoke the "feeling" - the illusion - of water. Experienced gardeners as well as novices will benefit from reading this book. I recommend you buy the physical book for ease of reference. You will be going back to it a lot!

Great pictures for ideas on a thoughtful garden. Lots of good details on how to evaluate your soil. This is the crux of any gardening. Plus, I love how she doesn't demonize all grass. My favorite look in this book a small section of grass with natives surrounding the garden. I found a little grass patch in my Arizona garden an attraction to birds since it brings down the temperature during the very hot part of the day, also a little square of green give your eye rest. Got some new updated ideas on water permeable garden paths and shade materials too. My friends found her info useful as well (I shared my book).

Having read Pam Penick's previous book, *Lawn Gone*, I would say it overlaps a little bit with the information presented in *The Water-Saving Garden*. It's worth picking up this title anyway, for Penick's stunning photography, eloquent treatment of the blessings and challenges of water, and practical advice on creative ways to plan, sculpt, hardscape and plant your unique garden to make the best use of this precious resource. The highlights for me were detailed profiles on berms, swales, terracing, dry creeks and rain gardens, water-thrifty gardens, container gardening and evoking a watery feeling in the garden with little to no water. Thanks for another inspiring book, Pam!

Ms. Penick's second book is a worthy successor to *Lawn Gone*. Here is a logically organized, intelligent collection of information and ideas that anyone can understand, no matter their gardening experience.. Of course her topic is timely; for those of us in South Texas, it might even be considered a matter of some urgency, but Ms. Penick lays out her arguments for changing our water-wasteful landscaping habits with simple reason, not preachy diatribes. She further persuades us with imaginative and beautiful alternatives to the tyranny of lawns, with enough options to work in any situation. In short: smart, clear, pragmatic, imaginative and definitely USEFUL...a great book for anyone who gardens, plans to garden, or is just looking for inspiration and encouragement to garden in a thoughtful and conscientious way.

Friend of mind came across this author in Canada no less, but she lives right here in Texas, thus I am very happy to know she knows what is going on with our climate, soil and weather...very likeable in person as well....you can tell she knows what she is talking about. Love the book!

Great, practical book especially if you are new to a hot summer, low water climate like Texas, where the author is based, New Mexico, Arizona, even Southern California and California's hot, dry inland valleys. Great photos. I only wish it was a bit more lavishly illustrated like the author's blog, *Digging is*.

Anything by Pam Penick is helpful in reducing water usage while maintaining a neighborhood enviable garden. Strongly recommend you get this and even more urge you to use the ideas. She is one of the 21st century garden gurus!

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