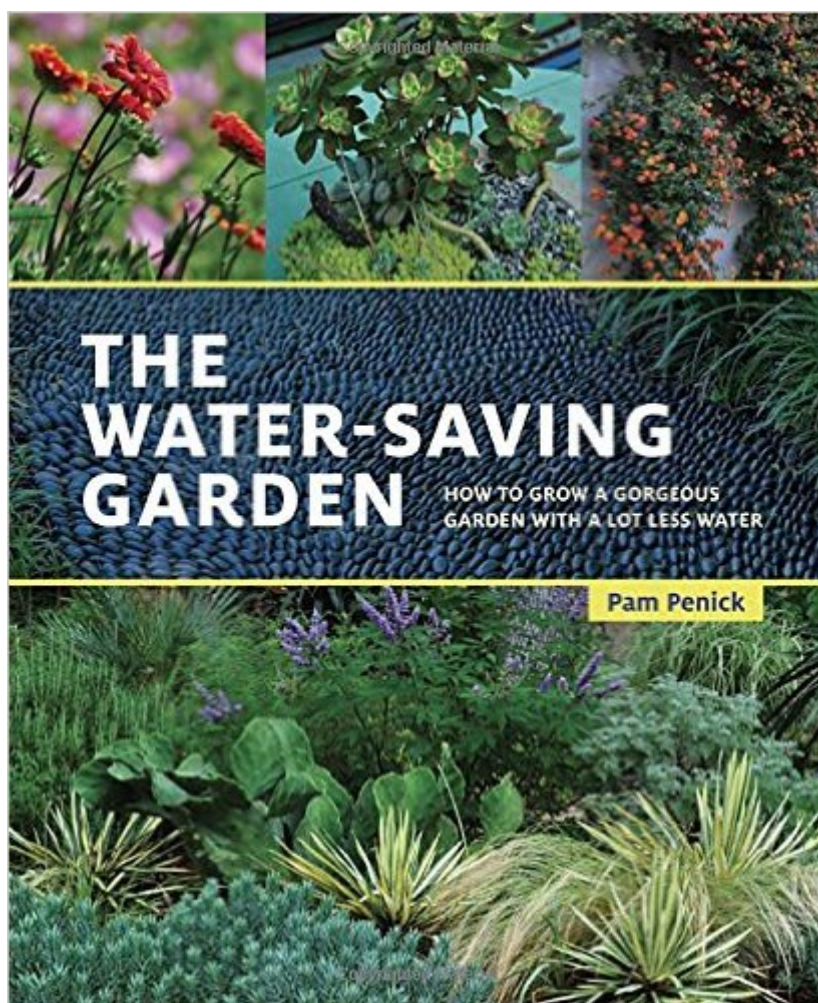


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# The Water-Saving Garden: How To Grow A Gorgeous Garden With A Lot Less Water



## 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

I want to tell you about a new book that I've just finished reading called "The Water Saving Garden". One thing that the water saving garden talks about is how here in the United States there is a sense of an over abundance of water. That because of all our generally accessible clean and inexpensive water, we freely apply water to whatever kind of plants that we want whether or not the plants themselves even need water at the time, and I think that's a very important message and something that we need to take to heart. Now before you get too confused, let me assure you that the water saving garden is not a book about growing cacti and succulents. It takes so much more into account. One thing that I really enjoyed about this book is the plethora of examples that are

given. Sometimes in a book they tell you that there's a way to approach a particular issue and they maybe give you an example of how to deal with that or how to put it into place. This book starts off with a whole array of examples of water saving gardens so that you can actually see how they're being put into use successfully which for me is a great way to spark ideas on how I could actually do something on my property to help conserve water. Furthermore, it goes into each of the different aspects about the landscaping itself, the hardscaping, the use of plants and indeed the use of water. This is not any attempt necessarily to completely restrict the use of water, but rather how to use it wisely, how to keep it on a property, how to keep it in a garden, and interestingly enough it also addresses areas that get a large amount of water at times, like we do here where we could easily have a rainfall that tops two inches or more, but yet we can go a month or two without much rain at all.

• But Lindsay, you live in an apartment with a miniscule balcony barely big enough for your bikes on the fourth floor • Yes. I know. I totally know. But I am in that stage of starting to long for escape, and making plans for purchase of a place with outdoor space like ASAP. And you know if there is one thing California doesn't have much of, it is WATER. So that is why I was drawn to this book, I am making plans in my head for a future outdoor space, but am very conscious that a) actually, I am kind of lazy so would like to plan for a space with minimal upkeep required, and b) water, or the lack of it, will be a problem and probably remain that way for years to come. To be honest, this book is kind of intense for a newbie wannabe gardener like myself, there is a whole different vocabulary to learn • Berms and Swales, much talk about soil compaction and rain gardens. There are lots of colourful pictures of examples of the things mentioned, but I guess I was hoping for explicit instructions of how to create a magical low water requirement garden • It turns out it is not so simple as that, dependent on soil type, pH, particular climate • The book is divided into five parts: Part one: drink up the beauty and ingenuity of a water-saving garden • inspiration for water-saving gardens, and images of different types of gardens Part two: make your garden a water saver, not a water guzzler • how to reduce dependence on water, and retain/maximise any existing water. Part three: planting the water-saving garden • get rid of/reduce your lawn, native planting, pots, and timing Part four: oasis or mirage?

• A garden that sips instead of guzzles can be quite lush if planted with regionally appropriate plants, • Pam Penick writes in the introduction of her book, *The Water-Saving Garden: How to Grow a Gorgeous Garden with a Lot Less Water*. ~ What ~ This two-hundred-forty-page paperback

targets those who want to learn more about saving water in the garden. After an introduction, thirteen chapters cover the topic, ending with acknowledgments, recommended resources, credits, and an index. Penick believes we all can save water in our gardens by wisely choosing what is planted and how the garden is designed. In the first section, gardens in Texas, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Arizona are discussed and how to adapt to the region's climate. The second section covers water runoff, paving, irrigation, soil/mulch, and shading while the next involves eliminating the lawn, native plants, ripple-zone planting, timing, and hot pots. Water features, natural landscaping, and dry beds are in the fourth part with the final section covering the plants and trees as well as each's size, zone, and preference. ~Why ~Since we live in the Pacific Northwest, we do not have as dry a climate as other parts of America. However, we are prompted to conserve water throughout the summer months every few years when there is a small snow pack. I like that this book has plenty of photographs to look at with out-of-the-box concepts for garden designing using less water. ~ Why Not ~Some may not like books that offer little layout designs yet plenty of pretty photographs.

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