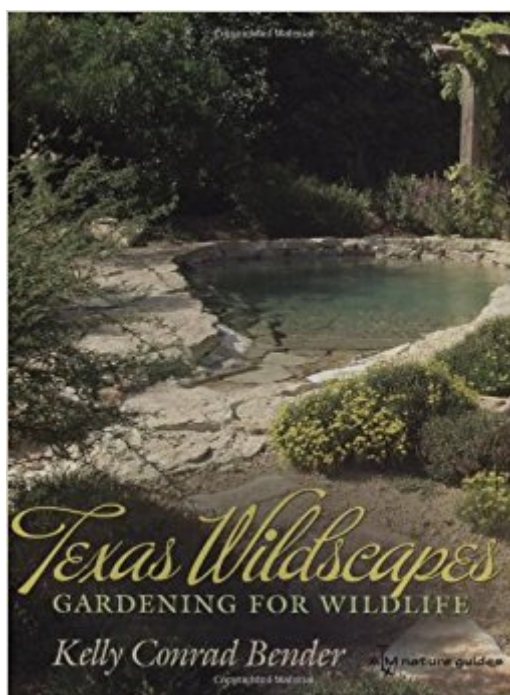


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# Texas Wildscapes: Gardening For Wildlife, Texas A&M Nature Guides Edition (Texas A&M Nature Guides (Paperback))



## Synopsis

New edition of the popular Texas Parks & Wildlife book, now with fully searchable DVD containing all the plant and animal information you need to customize your backyard habitat. Whether you have an apartment balcony or a multi-acre ranch, the Texas Wildscapes™ program provides the tools you need to make a home for all the animals that will thrive in the native habitat you create. In Texas Wildscapes, Kelly Conrad Bender identifies the kinds of animals you can expect when you give them their three basic needs: food, water, and shelter. She then provides guidelines for designing and planting your yard or garden to best provide these requirements for the many birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates the environment will attract. For those thousands of people already familiar with the old edition of Texas Wildscapes, the new book with its accompanying, easily navigable DVD will be a welcome supplement, providing a wealth of plant and animal lists, tables, pictures, and other detailed information in a fully searchable format. This book can also help you earn official recognition for your conservation efforts from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Successful applicants will receive a personalized certificate and have the opportunity to receive a weatherproof sign for their landscaping accomplishments, as detailed in the book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This beautifully illustrated volume is an outgrowth of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's effort to replace lost wildlife habitat by utilizing urban landscapes. . . Texas Wildscapes is a pleasure

to browse, full of useful information, and an inspiration for gardeners. This kind of back yard or school garden would be a great way for children to learn about the natural world." - Frances M. Ramsey, Review of Texas Books (Frances M. Ramsey Review of Texas Books 2011-06-01)

KELLY CONRAD BENDER is an urban wildlife biologist for Central Texas in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The former coordinator of the Texas Wildscapes program, she is currently based in Bastrop, Texas, where she conducts research and workshops and manages public outreach projects.

This is a great book. I bought the first edition shortly after it came out-- in 1999, I believe. I have used that book more than any other for not only the gardening I do at home, but also for restoring some property that has previously been badly overgrazed and overtaken by ashe juniper. This book has been invaluable in figuring out which plants/seeds offer the best fit to my land and the most benefit to wildlife. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. I have recently purchased the latest edition and it offers advantages over the first--namely the DVD. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. It is a great guide that will help you do something that is fun and that will greatly benefit our rapidly declining ecosystem. There is very little habitat left for native plants and animals: 95% has either been developed or is used for ranching or farming. When native plants decline so do native insect populations, which feed birds, reptiles, amphibians, etc. Ms. Bender's book makes it easy for everyone who is concerned to not only help, but also enjoy themselves while doing it.

What a pleasure to read about gardening from such a lover of all things natural. Ms. Bender has an endearing way of reminding us that we needn't fear nature, for nature does not stop at the fence around our yard. We are all so prone to freaking out about the lack of perfection in our landscapes that it takes a book like this to make us step back and realize that the supposed perfection we seek is truly the epitome of ignorance and suppression of the natural order of things. How wonderful to read about wildscapes and wildlife, and to see the beautiful photos that show how "keeping things natural" does not mean you have to have a wild yard. Many thanks to Ms. Bender for encouraging us to incorporate even the tiniest element of "real" into our city lots, and to not be afraid of the critters that feel at home there.

This invaluable guide to creating fire-safe home landscaping, as well as designing a great place for birds, bees, and other wildlife, is as entertaining to read as it is informative. Ms. Bender includes

many photographs, lists of plant categories, and ideas for improving your home landscape, be it around a patio home or a larger property. Her treatments of planting to deter wildfire is excellent, and should be understood by anyone in a drought-sensitive or water scarce area. As a new transplant to Texas, I am so grateful to Ms. Bender for starting me off right, thinking about what to plant around a new house! A great guide for learning about native plants and which non-native plants to shy away from.

This is a great primer and resource for everyone's gardening, from the small space to the really large space. Wildlife gardening is so doable with this resource!

GOOD ONE

Great reference book for gardening in different texas climates & surprisingly a lot of information on local wildlife & how to keep your garden on the native side.

This book has great ideas to plan a yard that provides shelter and food for birds and animals. I highly recommend it.

good

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