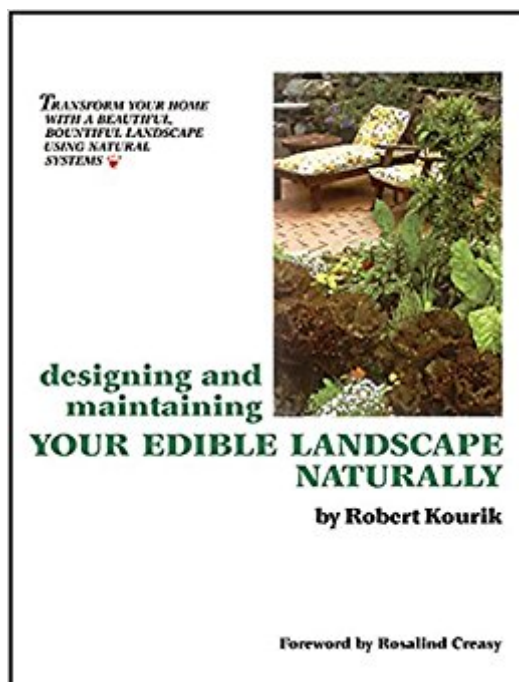


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Designing And Maintaining Your Edible Landscape Naturally



Synopsis

First published in 1986, this classic is back in print by popular demand. It is the authoritative text on edible landscaping, featuring a step-by-step guide to designing a productive environment using vegetables, fruits, flowers, and herbs for a combination of ornamental and culinary purposes. It includes descriptions of plants for all temperate habitats, methods for improving soil, tree pruning styles, and gourmet recipes using low-maintenance plants. There are sections on attracting beneficial insects with companion plants and using planting to shelter your home from erosion, heat, wind, and cold.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #871,181 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Wild Plants #151 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Climate #234 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Fruit

Customer Reviews

Publishers Weekly-Kourik's color photos and Massion's art effectively illustrate a text that fulfills the title's promise. The author's advice is sound and practical although the reader may bridle at his tone at times. (Attempting a chatty informality, for example, he orders one to "find a comfortable chair and leaf through the book.") Otherwise, this is a valuable guide to the holistic approach to gardening, which relies on natural fertilizers and avoids chemicals. The author begins with suggestions for designing plots according to environment, space available, personal preferences. (The pictures prove that areas featuring vegetables, herbs, fruit- and nut-bearing trees and other edibles can be beautiful.) Kourik, who frequently appears on TV and lectures nationally, includes recipes that use the wide variety of foods featured here.

Robert Kourik began his career in organic landscape maintenance in 1974. Over the next four decades, he honed his horticulture-related skills by working with clients throughout the US, and has since written fourteen books on the creation of sustainable homes and gardens. His book *Designing and Maintaining Your Edible Landscape Naturally*, originally written in 1986, has become a classic in its field, defining the genera of gardening now known as "edible landscaping," and focusing on organic, natural, sustainable, integrated systems. His extensive thirty-five-year-old ornamental/herbal drought- and deer-resistant garden and orchard have never been watered.

Robert Kourik has assembled a wealth of information in this book. Without question it is an invaluable reference work. I would have given it 4 stars had the information been presented in a more reader-friendly manner with clearer demarcation of different sections, larger font, clearer photographs and diagrams, and a logical numbering sequence for chapters. And it would have been worthy of 5 stars if Kourik could have refrained from giving his opinion, often presented as 'fact', at annoyingly frequent intervals in the text. The list of references/further reading is impressive but marred by needless repetition. The book 'Feed the Soil' is mentioned in the chapter bibliographies at least three times, each time with Kourik's peevish comment that he "dislikes the opening dialogue between rabbits and a worm". OK I think we got that bit Robert, we can move on now. With some careful editing (and pruning out of one third of the text) a really fine book could have been created. And maybe no harm to add metric measures to the 'liquid measures conversions' at the end of the book. Even in the US, the metric system has been used by the scientific community for over half a century, and in the most of the rest of the world, terms like quart and bushel, long in disuse, will leave people scratching their heads. In spite of those criticisms, this is a good book to add to your library. But get it second-hand.

Robert Kourick's book is without a doubt fantastic, but I am extremely disappointed with the Chelsea Green reprint. The color plates from the original edition can only be found online, and the text is squished up against the binding which makes for an awkward read. This book should have been reprinted true to its original form. Thanks for nothing Chelsea Green. I want my money back.

I purchased this book based on recommendations in the reviews of a general book on home fruit growing. While yes, this book is pretty thorough, there's a lot of extraneous discussion that, while informative, is beyond the need or want of many readers, I would bet.

What an exciting day, receiving my own copy of this book. It's a terrific reference for those who want more than the gloss and pictures. Open the pages and become immersed in details you'll find hard to discover elsewhere, such as analysis of rootstock and their resistance to crown rot; how to reduce wind chill and improve orchard output and a table formatted Bio selector for insect pest control using biologicals, minerals, beneficials and botanical organic options. After many years of being without this reference book, and the only copies stolen or lost from the local library, (I understand why) I now have my own and will guard it greedily. It's an essential addition to my professional library and highly recommended for others in the horticultural industry too, even if you are in the subtropics as I am.

It covers a very wide subject in practical and easy to read terms handy reference book easy to read. It covers the science and the practice of profitable and sustainable gardening. One of a kind book from a dedicated author

Great planning book.

Excellent book. Very detailed account. Much superior to similar titles. I've enjoyed several of his other titles - especially "Root Demystified".

If you care about your garden or landscaping, this book should be placed in clear view on your kitchen sideboard. Don't step outside without it!

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