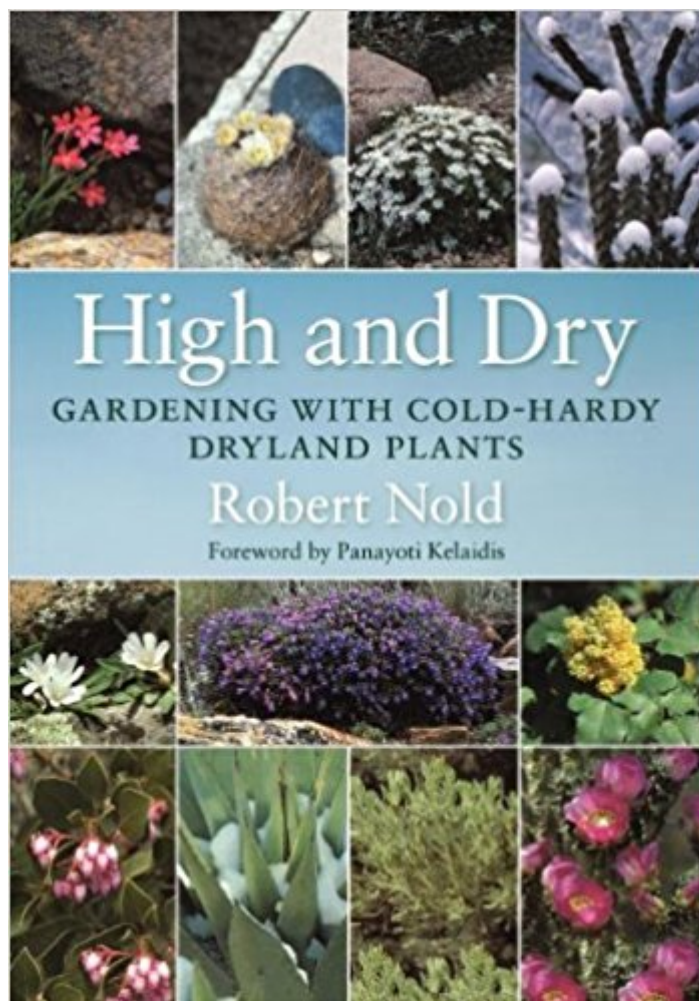


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High And Dry: Gardening With Cold-Hardy Dryland Plants



Synopsis

A must-have for any gardener facing the daunting challenge of scorching summers and brutally cold winters. A black-and-white edition.

Book Information

Paperback: 422 pages

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Customer Reviews

Nold aims his expert eye on America's "Big Sky" high country, providing all who garden in the cold, dry landscape of Rocky Mountain regions with a truly incisive resource for selecting ornamental plants. Summer's extreme heat is considered, along with frigid winters and semiarid conditions, as Nold recommends a wondrous selection of appropriate bulbs and perennials, annuals and grasses, shrubs and cacti. A plant-lover's zeal defines the chapter devoted to species for rock gardens, where Nold puts forward plants that promise to be easily grown, although mostly from seed. The book's trove of plants is brought to life through detailed advice based upon Nold's hard-won understanding of gardening in Denver's unique climatic conditions. Extensive plant profiles offer descriptions of plants, their habits, and cultural requirements. Moreover, entries are filled with Nold's personal experience, helping to govern readers' choices as they look to create their own beautiful gardens. --Alice Joyce --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"A must-have primer for the water-conscious gardener." (Midwest Book Review)"To the rescue is Robert Nold, whose experience in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado with dryland gardening offers a host of plant selections that will not only survive under these temperature extremes, but thrive."

(Denver Post) "With tips on breeds of plants that can thrive in the climate and survive both extremes of temperature, 'High and Dry' is a scholarly and well researched book on gardening in inhospitable climates. Highly recommended. . . . (SciTech Book News) " . . . a humorous, practical book for any Western gardener looking for drought-friendly gardening advice. " "Nold, an adept and often funny writer, has written a plant book that will be invaluable to gardeners and plant specialists for its presentation of his extensive knowledge of these native plants and his experience growing them, without any irrigation. " --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Nold clearly has a lifetime of personal experience with high and dry gardening, but some of his advice seems restricted to his experience and/or corner of the West. For example, he says that propagating rabbitbrush from seed is difficult to impossible; if he still wants rabbitbrush seedlings I have roughly 3,987,122 volunteers I'd love to get rid of! Nonetheless, the writing is entertaining and the references on individual native plants are unparalleled, although again somewhat constrained by Nold's experiences (which often conflicts with the lessons learned in dry gardens in northern Utah's limey clay soils). Overall the reference section is the best I've seen for true native plant gardeners in the Intermountain West.

As a fairly recent transplant from coastal So. Calif. (Sunset Books Zone 24) to northern Utah (Sunset Zone 3A) about to embark on taming the huge expanse of swampy bluegrass in the yard (can't call it a garden yet) my newly-purchased home, I am thrilled to have found Nold's book. I really don't think I will have the courage to do a fully dry-garden approach as he does, but I found his narrative extremely thought-provoking and wise. The fact that it is frequently hilarious is an added bonus. Some reviews have criticized the book because it is somehow not a complete guide. I never had the impression that it was intended as such. And, who has just one garden book, anyway? The illustrations are really nice, although as some said, there may not be enough of them; that is easily remedied by reference to another book or so. I didn't really see this book so much as a plant guide (although the author may have intended that) as much as I valued the discussion of the ways in which gardening in the "Intermountain West" is so much different from gardening anywhere else. I appreciated his take on the reasons why people seem to think all gardens, wherever they are, must somehow emulate the ones they had elsewhere. And, learning that well-drained soil and the addition of copious amounts of organic matter may not be necessary was music to my ears. If you just want a book for looking up things, probably this is not for you, but if you, like me, read garden books (or cookbooks) for the pleasure of reading them, I highly recommend this one.

Wonderfully written and edited book. Some of the species mentioned are also gateways to other varieties in the same species. One I began reading this book, I read it cover to cover in three short days. A bit of humor is difficult to blend with gardening books; however, Robert Nold is a Master. A wonderful read and a useful source of information.

You feel like you are talking to a good neighbor-woven with humor but at the end of the day full of useful information and down to earth wisdom! Not your ordinary gardening book-one for the real world!

An excellent source of info if you garden on the Colorado Plateau. My only complaint is the use of scientific names (mostly) for everything, especially in the index. And why was the Cheyenne Mock Orange omitted?

I've been gardening in different parts of the West for over ten years (my profile says Tucson, but am currently in Utah), and I still actively seek out every new resource I can find. In this case the author's objective (to create a garden with little or no supplemental irrigation) is a bit extreme for my goals. But I'm very glad that someone is willing experiment with this so I don't have to!! I do have goals to create a garden which uses significantly less water than my neighbors', and I will definitely be seeking out many plants recommended in this book. I would say that this is mostly a plant-based guide. The bulk of the book is profiles of individual plants, many of which are not easily available. But that's ok; that's how new plants get introduced to the gardening public and the market. He does spend some time (and space) describing his gardening methods and "philosophy" (let's plant things that like our local conditions). Best thing I liked about this book (besides the wealth of experience and knowledge) is the author's sense of humor. Most of us garden for fun; it doesn't have to be so serious. I love it when he admits freely that he killed this plant, or hated that one. His descriptions of the foliage smell of certain plants had me laughing out loud. The single criticism I have of the book is that, while there are many pictures of individual plants, there are not many pictures of the garden. I always find it instructive to study how other gardeners place and use plants in relationship to one another and the landscape. That said, I know that I will refer to this book over and over when seeking out new plants for the drier parts of my garden.

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