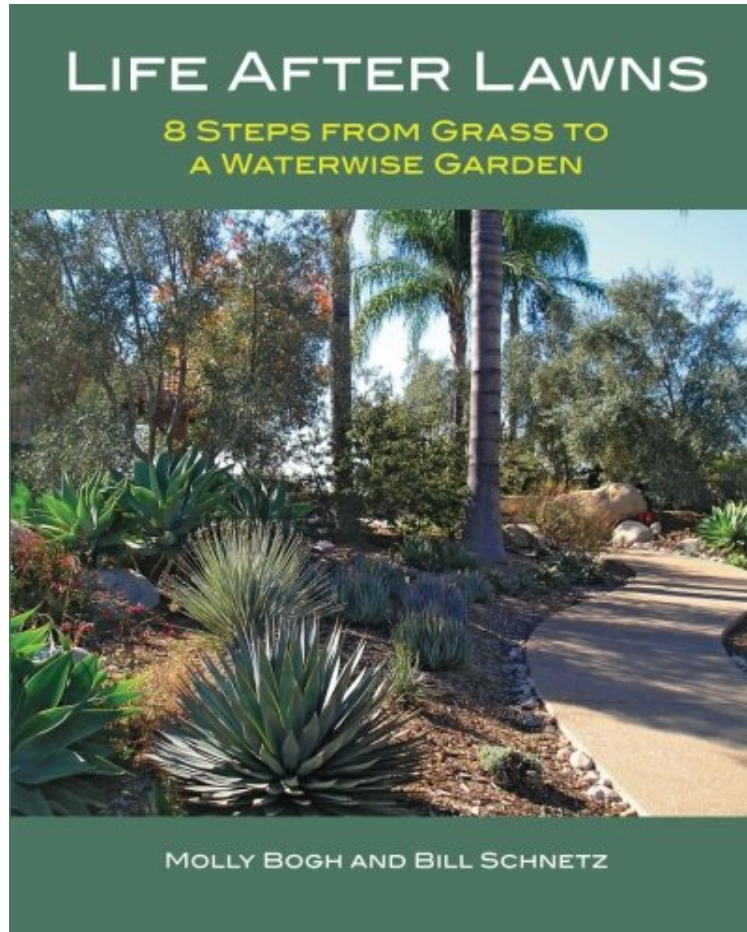


(Download) Life After Lawns: 8 Steps from Grass to a Waterwise Garden

Life After Lawns: 8 Steps from Grass to a Waterwise Garden

Molly Bogh, Bill Schnetz
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#770939 in Books 2014-07-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x .38 x 8.001, .0 #File Name: 1492955108160 pages | File size: 39.Mb

Molly Bogh, Bill Schnetz : Life After Lawns: 8 Steps from Grass to a Waterwise Garden before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life After Lawns: 8 Steps from Grass to a Waterwise Garden:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Life After Lawns a wonderful book By NavalArchAs stated in the preface, "This book is for homeowners who are ready to trade their water-guzzling lawns for a different landscape, but don't know how to begin." Authors Bogh and Schnetz between them have considerable hands-on experience to bring to bear on creating natural, self-sustaining gardenscapes, born of the fact that they could not find all the comprehensive knowledge they required in a single source. This book goes a long way to fill that need. It is written in a very easy-to-read conversational style, accented by wonderful photos and diagrams. It is an excellently produced book. The authors also seem to anticipate the questions one might have right about the time you think of asking them, and they provide lots of interesting little sidebars to answer such questions and relate others' experiences. There is a list of on-line resources at the back of the book, as well as others sprinkled throughout the text. There really are 8 steps to a new

garden, beginning with "Imagine your garden in paradise". It then follows with chapters on how to design a new garden, how to choose professional expert help if you need it, taking out the old lawn, laying the ground work (literally) for the new garden, then adding water, and filling with plants, and finally, tending to your new garden's needs. Chapter 4 on taking out the old grass doesn't beat around the bush (pun intended) but gets right down to business: "The next step is creative destruction, the part where you have to break a few eggs to make an omelet. Start by killing the grass." Sounds lethal..well, it is, but follow the plan. You don't have to be a biologist to understand this book. I'm not one, and I understood it perfectly. Chances are that you will be taking this book with you wherever you go--either into your yard while digging out old plants, or going to the nursery to buy new ones. It's going to get beat up, dog-eared, stained, and torn. You had better buy two copies, because the book itself is a work of art, and you'd like to keep a nice copy on the shelf.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Alternatives to those green lawns brought to us in the 1950sBy Lynette LeDouxI'm more skim reading that sitting there and reading this book. I need to really read it though because with all this dry hot weather we have in north Texas, I need less lawn and more resting and useful places. The book is well put together, and is very relevant in today's outdoor life styles.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy ANONYMOUSExcellent guide

Life After Lawns shows how to turn boring and thirsty lawns into dazzling, water-saving gardens, step by step. Simple explanations guide readers through the process of replacing grass with unique gardens that match their lifestyle and climate zone. Topics include: designing a garden that feels like home; finding expert landscape help; handling plans, permits, and contractors; killing the lawn and preparing the soil; saving money and water on irrigation; selecting the best plants for each part of the yard; and planting and tending the garden. Sustainable techniques such as retaining rainwater, fire-safe landscaping, and composting are described. Sidebars offer helpful tips, and hundreds of color photographs illustrate design ideas and plant choices. Combining their expertise on all phases of landscaping, from planning and design to construction and maintenance, the authors offer practical advice for beginners and professionals alike.

From Kirkus sBogh and Schnetz outline the steps to transform a water-hungry lawn into an inviting, drought-resistant, less-hassle garden...Their well-organized guide begins with some basic FAQs about designing, developing, and maintaining a no-grass yard...Other topics include envisioning a paradise garden, finding landscaping professionals, hiring contractors, acquiring necessary permits, soil and composting, irrigation techniques, choosing trees and plants, and pruning strategies. Wonderful resources, including a large list of gardening websites, close out the index. The books visual layout is also appealing, with plenty of color photos providing fine support as well as inspiration for design ideas...An instructive, inspirational, and indispensable guide for anyone who tires of lawn care and wants an alternative that could help mother earth. --Kirkus s kirkusreviews.com Life After Lawns Gives Insight into Drought-Tolerant Yards by Joshua Siskin Los Angeles Daily News Life After Lawns: 8 Steps from Grass to a Waterwise Garden is a simple guide to transforming your lawn into a breathtaking drought-tolerant oasis. Drought-tolerant oasis may sound like an oxymoron. An oasis is lush and green, you are thinking, so how could such a place be drought tolerant too? An oasis is also a respite from the storm, a place where you find relief from the desert all around. And a judiciously designed drought-tolerant garden will bring shade, color, and texture to a space that previously consisted of nothing but grass and hot sun. Grass may be fine for a game of badminton, but as a space for contemplation and meditation, or for visits by insects, birds, and other wildlife, it leaves much to be desired. Life After Lawns, among its many virtues, demystifies the techniques and procedures involved in transforming lawn to garden so that non-expert do-it-yourselfers will feel comfortable with each step of the process. Everything you need to know about irrigation system installation, for example, is discussed in comprehensive yet easily understandable detail. Quotes from a wide variety of experienced gardeners, set off from the main text in green boxes, are another wonderful feature...At the end of Life After Lawns there is a most valuable postscript of 10 gardening pitfalls to avoid. This section alone justifies the books purchase price.About the AuthorMolly Bogh has served Southern California communities as a city planner for twenty-five years. Her work promoting water-conserving landscapes became a passion for creating livable gardens after she replaced her own lawn. Bill Schnetz is a certified landscaping professional and design-build landscape contractor with forty years experience in garden design, construction, and maintenance. A long-time board member and past president of the California Landscape Contractors Association, his award-winning gardens have been featured in numerous publications.