

Recycleworks.org Sustainable Landscaping Recommended Reading List

(with descriptions by Amazon.com)

Ecological Design

by Sim Van Der Ryn and Stuart Cowan. (ISBN: 1559633891)

Ecological Design presents a vision of how the living world and the human world can be rejoined by taking ecology as the basis for design—adapting and integrating human design with natural processes. The authors weave together case studies, personal anecdotes, images and theory to provide a thorough treatment of the concept of ecological design.

Introduction to Permaculture

by Bill Mollison. (ISBN: 0908228082)

Permaculture is about designing sustainable human settlements. It is a philosophy and an approach to land use, which weaves together microclimate, annual and perennial plants, animals, soils, water management, and human needs to intricately connected, productive communities.

Landscape Ecology Principles in Landscape Architecture and Land-Use Planning

by W.E. Dramstad, J.D. Olson, and R.T. Forman. (ISBN: 1559635142)

Landscape ecology has emerged in the past decade as an important and useful tool for land-use planners and landscape architects. While professionals and scholars have begun to incorporate aspects of this new field into their work, there remains a need for a summary of key principles and how they might be applied in design and planning. This volume fills that need. It is a concise handbook that lists and illustrates key principles in the field, presenting specific examples of how the principles can be applied in a range of scales and diverse types of landscapes around the world.

Let it Rot, The Gardener's Guide to Composting

by Stu Campbell. (ISBN: 1580170234)

A readable, quietly humorous introduction to composting, this covers reasons to compost; differing approaches; how decomposition works; various methods, ingredients, and containers; how to speed decomposition; and how to use the end result.

Natural Landscaping, Gardening with Nature to Create a Backyard Paradise

by Sally Roth. (ISBN: 0875967043)

Showing readers how to create their own woodland gardens, shade gardens, wildflower meadows, prairie gardens, and songbird gardens, *Natural Landscaping* is packed with real-life examples, garden plans, colorful combinations, at-a-glance plant charts, and more. Includes regional coverage and plant recommendations.

Placing Nature, Culture and Landscape Ecology

Edited by Joan Iverson Nassauer. (ISBN: 1559635592)

Placing Nature is a groundbreaking volume in the field of landscape ecology, the result of collaborative work among experts in ecology, philosophy, art, literature, geography, landscape architecture, and history. Contributors asked each other: What is our appropriate role in nature? How are assumptions of Western culture and ingrained traditions placed in a new context of ecological knowledge? In this book, they consider the goals and strategies needed to bring human-dominated landscapes into intentional relationships with nature, articulating widely varied approaches to the task.

Protecting Estuarine Water Quality Through Design

by Nancy White.

This guidebook, though written for the east coast, has many valuable sustainable design techniques to reduce runoff and increase infiltration of stormwater. This guidebook presents a range of strategies from large-scale river basin planning, to an ecological model of development and a conservation-minded garden. To purchase a copy, send your request and a \$7.00 check to NC Sea Grant, NCSU Box 8605, Raleigh, NC 27695-8605

Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards

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Planting Noah's Garden, Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology

by Sara Stein. (ISBN: 0395709407) & (ISBN: 0395709601) respectively

In *Noah's Garden*, published in 1994, gardener and writer Sara Stein addressed the business of making a messy backyard--of restoring a naturally chaotic and dynamic "floral-faunal-microbial system" in the place of neatly tended, carefully selected and weeded, and ultimately artificial gardens. Just as charmingly written as its predecessor, *Planting Noah's Garden* furthers Stein's campaign to make lawns animated, full of disorder, life, and wildness. Studded with ringing tributes to alumroot, trillium, goldenrod, bellworts, and mayflowers, this is a lovely gardener's manifesto. Packed with practical instructions for planning and maintaining a garden of one's own, it's also wonderful entertainment for anyone with a green thumb.

Regenerative Design for Sustainable Development

by John Tillman Lyle. (ISBN: 0471178438)

A guide to the theory, design, and construction of regenerative systems based on self-renewing processes. It describes practical applications to the essential systems of land development: energy flow, water flow, agriculture and land use, and building design. It also explores the cultural, social, and economic implications of regenerative systems, and speculates on the global landscape that can result from their application. For landscape architects, civil engineers, architects, and land development planners, as well as students and educators in these fields.

The Integral Urban House

by Farallones Institute, Sierra Club books. (ASIN: 0871562138)

Soil maintenance and more elaborate water recycling systems.

The Newman's Own Organics Guide to a Good Life

by Nell Newman. (ISBN: 081296733X)

Nell Newman, daughter of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, joins forces with D'Agnes to offer this well-reasoned and practical handbook to environmentally and socially conscious living. Her suggestions cover such areas as food, transportation, energy and investing, and range from the commonsensical-eat local produce in its season-to the surprising-stock your living room with the 10 plants that "clean air best." Newman assumes her readers aren't zealots, but simply people who want to do right by the earth, and it's this lack of self-righteousness that makes her advice so refreshing. Whether readers want to learn how make nontoxic household cleaners, buy "green power" from the power company, shop more responsibly, practice "social investing" or to encourage their pets to eat organic people food, Newman offers the secrets. Interspersed with her counsel are oddball and often inspirational tales of green living Full of hints and encouragements-and printed on 100% postconsumer recycled paper-this excellent beginner's resource makes conscientious living look very simple indeed.

The Way, An Ecological Word-View

by Edward Goldsmith. (ISBN: 0820320307)

In *The Way*, Goldsmith proposes that the stability and integrity of the human depend on the preservation of the balance of natural systems surrounding the individual – family, community, society, ecosystem, and the ecosphere itself. He calls for paradigm shift away from the reductionist approach of modern science. Echoing the way of traditional cultures, he presents an all-embracing, coherent worldview satisfying real biological, social, environmental, and spiritual needs.

The Wild Lawn Handbook, Alternatives to the Traditional Front Lawn

by Stevie Daniels. (ASIN: 0025294458)

Native grasses, wildflowers, ground covers, and moss are Daniels' answer to "monotonous single-species turfgrass lawns." Her book is a primer for gardeners who want to reduce or stop using chemical fertilizers and pesticides, conserve water, or turn their yards into a collection of plants that attracts birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. There are detailed instructions on choosing a wild lawn and on installing and maintaining the lawn, and even a chapter on landscaping ordinances.

Urban Wilds

by Cleo Woelfle-Erskine. (ISBN:0-97270372-0-4)

Urban Wilds: gardeners' stories of the struggle for land and justice is a book by gardeners for the gardeners who have spent long afternoons telling us stories, the elders who share their agriculture knowledge, and the young ones watching their first garden grow. It is for revolutionaries transforming our cities from within who often don't have good food to eat. Black and Puerto Rican city dwellers bring rural traditions to the city and share their knowledge with a new generation of urban youth. Catholic Workers, rural anarchists, and radical environmentalists harvest the visions sown deep in rural and urban communities. Young Tohono O'odham farmers revive indigenous agricultural practices and safeguard traditional seeds in the deserts of the Southwest. Protesters take to the streets against global capital, then use gardens and community spaces as tools to create the world they envision. Look through the cracks in the urban landscape to see a world transformed by these possibilities.

Water Conserving Plants and Landscapes for the Bay Area

by Barry Coates. (ASIN: 9991547223)

This extremely well-organized book has a picture of every plant listed, often several cultivars of a popular plant. It is not heavy on design or irrigation techniques, but a great source of info and photos. Even if your focus is not water conservation, this is a nice complement book to have. It is of course limited to plants that survive in the SF Bay Area, though not limited to natives.

Compiled by: **Elaine Walker**

elainewalker@sbcglobal.net

June 27, 2003