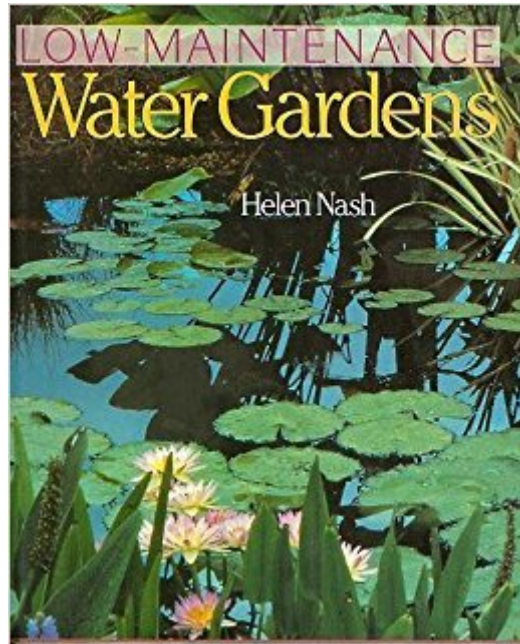




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Low-Maintenance Water Gardens



Synopsis

Imagine having your own water garden, complete with beautifully landscaped pond and year-round plantings, stocked with colorful fish, friendly frogs, turtles, and snails. These simple plans show how to create a water garden specially constructed for low maintenance. Learn about correct siting; preventing problems related to tree roots, runoff, and water tables; choosing materials that resist punctures and leaks; and making sure the garden is level, to prevent spilling and flooding, and accessible for easy repair. See how to control both plants and animals to keep them stress-free and disease-free, and how not to overload the ammonia and nitrite levels. Bonus: a list of inexpensive tools and a chart of simple babysitting techniques so you don't have to worry when away from home.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Nash, coauthor of *Water Gardening in Containers*, also reviewed in this section, tells gardeners how to plan and construct a low-maintenance water garden. She provides extensive information on filtration, plant and fish care, and seasonal maintenance. Nash explains how to select the correct site, how to prevent problems concerning tree roots, runoffs, and water tables, how to prevent spilling and flooding, and how to protect water gardens from predators. There is also a list of appropriate tools and equipment. All 128 pages contain color photographs. George Cohen

Previous Titles: *Low-Maintenance Water Gardens*, *Water Gardening in Containers*, *Waterfalls*,

Fountains, Ponds & Streams, Aquatic Plants And Their Cultivation --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Do you love water lilies? . . . Koi? . . . the sound of falling water? . . . the jeweled rainbows of a fountain's spray? Do you have a bad back? Are you busy? If you answered "yes" to at least one question in each of the first two paragraphs, this is the book for you! Water gardening is something that I have always wanted to do, but was daunted by the sheer volume of work . . . and the risk of what could go wrong if I made a mistake. With Ms. Nash's help, both problems can be pleasantly removed. The book starts by helping with planning and construction. What effects do you want? Sound? Fish? Shape? Match to your home? Lilies? Fountain? Put it in full sun well away from trees and shrubs. Pick a spot that is elevated so that there will be no run-off into the water. Also, be sure you are well above the water line. The book goes on to help you select materials, considering the initial costs versus the maintenance involved. You also get a sense of what maintenance is needed during each season, and how you can use preventive maintenance to avoid work later on. The book contains many practical principles and ideas that I never would have considered. For example, you can put a screen over the water during the season when debris is most likely to get into the water. There is also an inexpensive skimmer you can make that works automatically. How you filter the water is an art in and of itself. I loved the concept of how you can use a combination of natural filtration and an easy-to-access pump to create clean water. As an example of another great idea, Ms. Nash suggests having one white fish if you plan to have fish. Changes in that fish's color then will help you monitor the quality of the aquatic environment before unnecessary stress develops. If you aren't sure what kind of water lilies you want, the gorgeous color photographs should be a great help. The appendix even has all kinds of useful ratios of the sort the new water gardener is likely to need to know, but will probably not remember. Unless you are planning to create something on the order of Monet's garden at Giverny, you will find this book tells you more than you could possibly need to know. Keep it as a handy reference, and you'll soon be enjoying a marvelous water garden designed to suit your own preferences! After you finish enjoying this book, I suggest that you also think about what other changes you could make in your garden that would make it more peaceful for you . . . with minimal effort and maintenance. Do you have a bird bath? Do you have a set of wind chimes? Establish a natural balance by thinking through the processes that need to be established and maintained . . . in all parts of your life!

We put in our first pond this year. This book was recommended to us as the best one for beginners -

it has come in very handy on several occasions.

Great tips for low-maintenance!

GOOD BACKGROUND

Great book for beginners! Helen Nash not only tells what to do for low maintenance water gardening, she tells what not to do. Complete with advice on low-maintenance plant and fish selection. A simple, quick-read book. Fully illustrated.

The book was okay. I was very disappointed in the writing. Although the author had pretty good tips on water gardens, the redundancy of the word "low-maintenance" made it almost unbearable to read. I had purchased the book because I was interested in low-maintenance water gardens but I did not need to be reminded of it on every page.

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