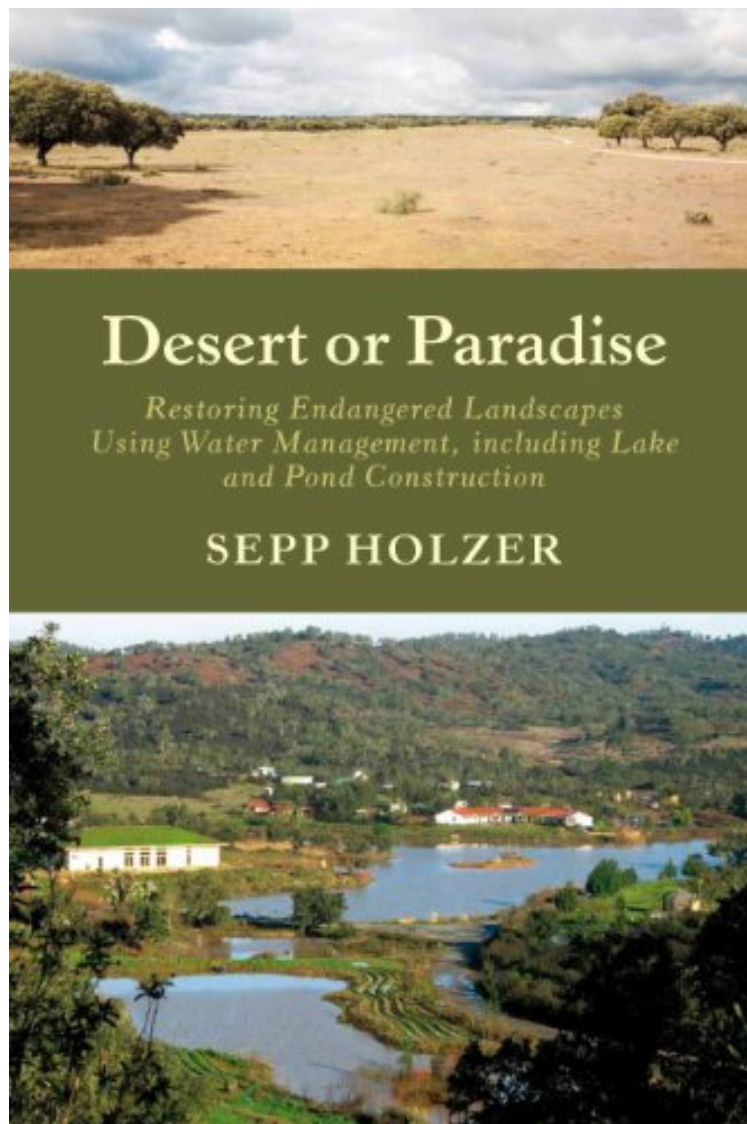


(Free download) Desert or Paradise: Restoring Endangered Landscapes Using Water Management, Including Lake and Pond Construction

Desert or Paradise: Restoring Endangered Landscapes Using Water Management, Including Lake and Pond Construction

Sepp Holzer

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Sepp Holzer : Desert or Paradise: Restoring Endangered Landscapes Using Water Management, Including Lake and Pond Construction before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Desert or Paradise: Restoring Endangered Landscapes Using Water Management, Including Lake and Pond Construction:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Arresting, Unique Approach To Land Transformation For The WorldBy Henry DeanComing independently to ideas behind permaculture, Sepp Holzer brings his own unique blend and insights that made him famous with his first book "The Rebel Farmer" which I have not been able to find available in the English speaking world. Starting with a family farm south of Salzburg, known as the Siberia of Austria, he transformed it from alpine spruce forest into a paradise of multiple fruit trees, vegetables, stock raising, ponds and plentiful water that appeals aesthetically as well as functionally.His observations from childhood shaped his approach. Bucking agricultural imperatives and directives for his area, he pursued what he understood worked. His profitable farm, a contrast to surrounding ones, has allowed him to expand its area over time.With his knowledge and experience formed over 30+ years, he has helped local and many overseas farms transform from dry, near barren and dying tree areas into verdant, productive spaces abundant with water. Whether it be amongst dying cork trees in Spain and Portugal to countries much further away he has shown how to transform them into productive, living oases.His somewhat quirky approach of listening to the trees, sleeping by them and receiving ideas of working transformation in dreams, may not be understandable to everyone. But his approach in attempting to understand what has gone wrong with each specific area so it can be individually transformed is definitely replicable.Knowing how much industrialised agriculture and monocultures have damaged our environments and lead to extensions of deserts and near desert areas he calls for massive changes in our customs. As he details, this misinformed approach is producing our current problems with wildfires, flooding and slips that threaten huge numbers of people each year. He points out how siting of villages, cities and roads in valley areas that naturally drain water is a disaster waiting to happen.With many examples he details how we can transform our regions and countries into productive, water-filled paradises. This at a time when water is considered to be the next major flash-point for conflict.Well written and explained in an excellent translation to give another, unique perspective on a permaculture transformation from a dying world that people consider they need to flee to Mars and further worlds to escape from to one we can enjoy for millennia to come. But only if we change our ways.....0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An enjoyable read on Holzer permaculture in practice.By Reg Appleby JrWas very much in line with my expectations on what to expect from Sepp Holzer writing on conversion of dry landscapes to more normal grasslands or silvopasture landscapes. Could have been backed up with some dimensional drawings on placements. Tendency to say " read the landscape" rather than explain how he does it in each specific location - and key variables within that location. An enjoyable read overall for anyone starting on the topic or looking for additional material to support their actions on increasing water within their existing landscape.13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, title matches contentBy jeremeyweeksLet me start this review by describing what this book is not. This is not a book that describes how to build a pond. This isn't a book that describes how to grow lemons in the Alps.The book gives Sepp's principles for restoring land. First, he describes how the land becomes degraded. Secondly, he explains that water is the key to the fix. Thirdly, he describes ways to use the water to effect change.There are diagrams and real world examples. Sepp also gives instructions for building equipment he uses, such as the monk, ring waterer, etc. Example plans for a farm are given.This is a great book. My only knock against it would be translation. The english is muddy in a couple places.

Sepp Holzer farms steep mountainsides in Austria 5,000 feet above sea level. His farm is an intricate network of terraces, raised beds, ponds, and waterways, well covered with productive fruit trees and other vegetation, in dramatic contrast to his neighbors' spruce monocultures. Fans of Sepp Holzer have come from all over the world to see the productivity of his farm, a veritable permaculture paradise. His first book, Sepp Holzer's Permaculture, offers a detailed guide to what Holzer has achieved on his farm. Many readers might have wondered-but how can we achieve this on a global scale? Luckily, his newest book, Desert or Paradise, examines Holzer's core philosophy for increasing food production, earth health, and reconnecting mankind with nature, applied to reforestation and water conservation across the world. Through years of consultation with other countries, Holzer has developed a core philosophy for reconnecting mankind with nature even in arid or otherwise "lost-cause" regions. He details a process he calls "Grundierung," a term from painting meaning "base coat," which goes into great detail the importance of water, and Desert or Paradise offers his concept and guide to construction of large water reservoirs in arid, rainfall-dependent regions with examples from Greece, Turkey, Spain, and Portugal. Holzer describes the ecological and economic benefits of these changes, as well as the use of a variety of plant and animal species for further integration and regeneration of the surrounding areas, including reasons for reforestation and the cause and use of forest fires. Holzer also outlines his ten points of sustainable self-reliance and how these methods can help feed the world, such as the need to regulate the water budget, eliminate factory livestock farming, bring more fallow or unused areas into production, enlarge crop areas by using terracing and Holzer-style raised beds, regionalize instead of globalize, fight for land reform and engage in community building, go back to the ancient farming wisdom, and change the educational system. Also included are Holzer's ideas on beekeeping, humane slaughtering, nature spirits, the loss of roots in our society in general, and in politics especially.

ForeWord s- "Many climatologists are concerned that the recent spate of drought across several parts of the world is

likely to become the new normal, which would prove particularly challenging for farmers, but will also affect everyone from city planners to rural landowners. Creating well-regulated water usage systems and better agriculture production methods are crucial for preventing widespread collapse or water shortages, and Sepp Holzer's excellent thoughts on the topic provide a handy guide for the type of solutions that are needed. Well known in the field of sustainable agriculture, Holzer first introduced his innovative water-retention ideas in *Sepp Holzer's Permaculture*, a handbook of small-scale, integrative farming techniques that drew on Holzer's experience as a farmer in Austria. Much like that useful volume, *Desert or Paradise* contains a wealth of practical tactics that can help prevent desertification, reverse poor water policies, and even create areas rich with orchards and crops. In his new book, Holzer offers examples from countries like Russia and Portugal to demonstrate the breadth of landscapes that can be healed with a greater emphasis on natural water management. He covers an immense range of topics, including using pigs to restore forest-fire areas, constructing ponds with proper shallow zones, restoring hydrological balance in the world, and abolishing industrial livestock farming. Despite the wide range of topics he covers, Holzer creates a cohesive, well-argued, and persuasive handbook that aims to help people restore paradise. For Holzer, restoring the earth's balance isn't about economic development and squeezing a few more seasons out of an exhausted stretch of land. It's about a long-term and beneficial view of the world as a resource. He encourages farmers to become rebels, gardeners to become advocates, and everyone to become more self-reliant and community-minded. In a lively, accessible style, Holzer manages to address the issue of endangered landscapes while offering guidance to the home gardener and small-scale farmer. By blending big-picture thinking and achievable local-level results, Holzer elevates his book far above a how-to or polemic. He seems the voice of reason in a world where a disconnect from nature is imperiling land, water, and people.

About the Author: Josef ("Sepp") Holzer was born in the province of Salzburg, Austria. He is a farmer, author, and an international consultant for natural agriculture. He took over his parents' mountain farm business in 1962 and pioneered the use of ecological farming, or permaculture, techniques at high altitudes (1,100 to 1,500 meters above sea level) after being unsuccessful with regular farming methods. Called the "rebel farmer" because he persisted in these practices despite being fined and even threatened with prison for practices such as not pruning his fruit trees (unpruned fruit trees survive snow loads that will break pruned trees). He has also created some of the world's best examples of using ponds as reflectors to increase solar gain for passive solar heating of structures, and of using the microclimate created by rock outcrops to effectively change the hardiness zone for nearby plants. He has also done original work in the use of Hugelkultur and natural branch development. He is conducting permaculture ("Holzer Permaculture") seminars at his farm and worldwide, while continuing to work on his alpine farm. His farm now spans over 45 hectares of forest gardens, including 70 ponds, and is said to be the most consistent example of permaculture worldwide. He is author of several books and the subject of the film *The Agricultural Rebel*. He works nationally as permaculture activist in the established agricultural industry and works internationally as adviser for ecological agriculture. He is the author of *Desert or Paradise: Restoring Endangered Landscapes Using Water Management, Including Lake and Pond Construction*, and *Sepp Holzer's Permaculture: A Practical Guide to Small-Scale, Integrative Farming and Gardening*.