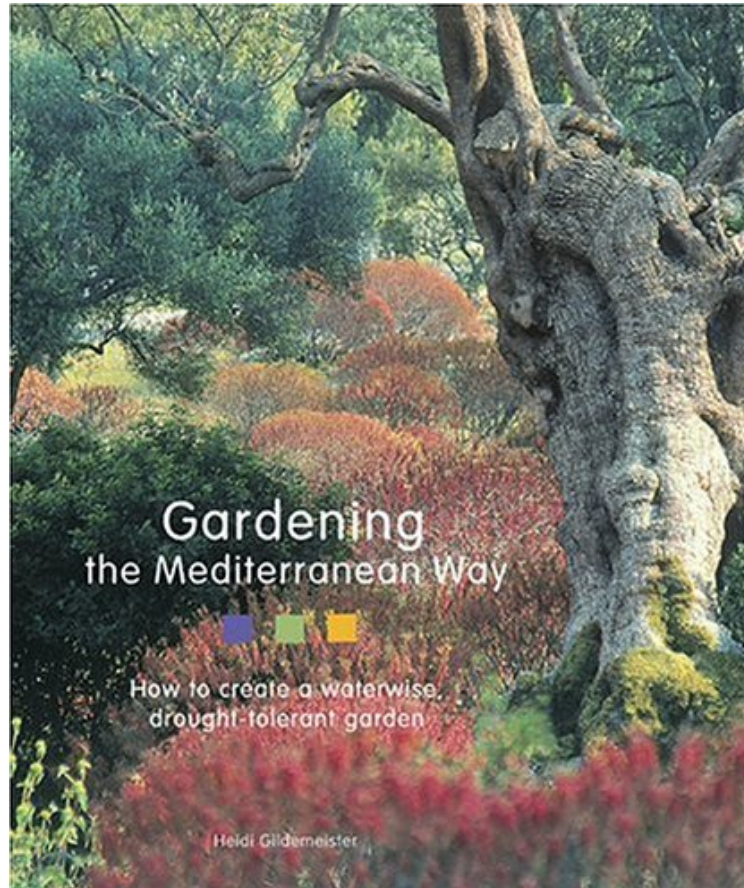


(Download) Gardening the Mediterranean Way: How to Create a Waterwise, Drought-Tolerant Garden

Gardening the Mediterranean Way: How to Create a Waterwise, Drought-Tolerant Garden

Heidi Gildemeister

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Heidi Gildemeister : Gardening the Mediterranean Way: How to Create a Waterwise, Drought-Tolerant Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gardening the Mediterranean Way: How to Create a Waterwise, Drought-Tolerant Garden:

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It's not necessary to live in a Mediterranean town to enjoy this attractive book, which contains thoughtful advice on creating a garden that is pleasing in its composition, setting, color, and variety, and also drought-resistant. Gildemeister, who's a founder of the Mediterranean Garden Society and frequent gardening author living in Spain, discusses a wide array of topics, including invasive species, native species, how to maximize the garden's setting, fruits and vegetables, and labor-saving methods. The volume is well illustrated with color photos. Annotation 2004 Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (booknews.com)

From Publishers WeeklyMediterranean-climate regions, characterized as "winter-wet and summer-dry" within a narrow set of specialized conditions, make up only a tiny percentage of the Earth's surface, including the Mediterranean basin and small areas of southern Australia, California, central Chile and the Cape of South Africa. The aesthetic, however, is ubiquitous: "all things Mediterranean have become fashionable." Gildemeister, an author, lecturer and founding member and past president of the Mediterranean Garden Society, writes with evident enthusiasm for pursuing that aesthetic in the face of "hot, dry summers and strong light" or "devastating winds, destructive fires, and erosion." Her exuberant text takes readers on a whirlwind tour of "Mediterranean Dream Gardens" from olive groves and sheep parks to city courtyards. Two brief initial chapters cover basic horticultural and design issues specific to this style of gardening. The remainder is devoted to "inspirational garden projects" that tackle a wide range of objectives, sites and challenges. These chapters are well researched, informative and practical, each concluding with a thorough listing of appropriate plants. Unfortunately, the lists themselves aren't illustrated, and almost none of the recommended plants are identified in captions for the 207 lush color photographs. This is doubly frustrating, since Gildemeister tempts readers from all climates with the timeless beauty, environmental prudence and rich history of Mediterranean gardening. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistGildemeister has developed quite a following among gardeners in summer-dry regions. In her new book, this doyenne of Mediterranean style goes on heralding a drought-tolerant approach to plant selection and exhibiting a kinship with the natural landscape. The integration of native species, along with colorful bulbs and blooming succulents, is emphasized, while the addition of stone, rock, and water elements are used to repeat the textures and muted hues common to the surroundings. Harmony is key to some 20 exemplar garden designs used to illustrate enticing aspects and ideas that gardeners may wish to emulate. An array of plant lists is presented to address habitats from oak woodlands to coastal to hot inland situations. Gildemeister covers a broad swath of design issues and planting challenges, suggesting special specimens, container subjects, and rugged plants that, when used appropriately, should reduce the labor involved in gardening. Alice JoyceCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorHeidi Gildemeister, a founding member and former president of the Mediterranean Garden Society, is the author of *Mediterranean Gardening: A Waterwise Approach* and has contributed to *The New Royal Horticulture Society Dictionary of Gardening*. She lives in Mallorca, Spain.