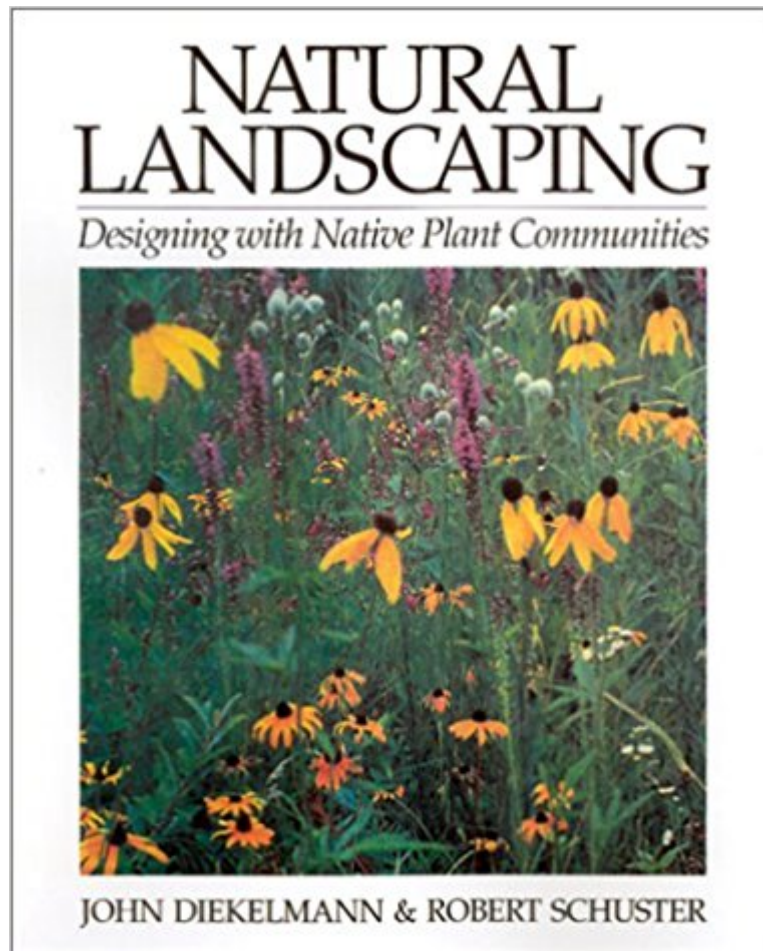




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Natural Landscaping: Designing With Native Plant Communities



Synopsis

In response to demand from landscape architects and home gardeners, *Natural Landscaping* returns to print in an updated and expanded second edition. It is unique in its focus on plant communities; it approaches landscape design as the establishment of natural ecosystems, rather than mere planting of specimens. Emphasizing the natural landscapes of the northeastern United States and eastern Canada, this book reviews landscaping principles and techniques and introduces native plant species for grasslands, forests, edge areas, and small wetlands. It illustrates how to evaluate a site and plan for visual effect and maintenance, presents the issues involved in restoring bogs, ponds, and other wetlands, offers practical advice on reducing chemical use while still combating invasive plants, addresses social, legal, design, and planting problems often encountered on residential sites, discusses natural landscaping for public parks, civic buildings, school grounds, and corporate properties.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: University of Wisconsin Press; 2nd edition (2002)

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Average Customer Review: 2.5 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"[Makes] landscaping with native plants a promise of nature's beauty at one's doorstep." —Joan Lee Faust, *The New York Times*

John Diekelmann is a licensed architect and a graduate landscape architect. Among his most notable projects are the architectural plans for the Adler Planetarium Extension in Chicago and the landscape master plans for the Wisconsin chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Robert Schuster is a writer and educator who has participated in many projects restoring natural plant communities. He is director of the Simonds Center for Instruction and Research in Nursing at the University of Wisconsinâ€”Madison.

Few photos, not very helpful for homeowners. Geared toward landscape architects and as a teaching tool.

Not what expected. Expected information on native plants for home use.

Natural Landscaping is an essential resource for anyone interested in landscaping with native plants. The importance of learning to use native plants is so important as we face continuing droughts in various parts of the country, including here in Williamsburg, VA. The book is so full of information that I find myself going back to it often. Many thanks to the authors for this fine volume.

Now in an updated and expanded second edition, *Natural Landscaping: Designing With Native Plant Communities* by licensed architect and landscaping authority John Diekelmann and natural plant restoration expert Robert Schuster is a fascinating, "user friendly" instructional guide on basic landscaping principles, as well as cogent, authoritative advice on how to restore wetlands and introduce native plant species for wetlands, grasslands, forests, and more. Black-and-white photographs as well as an inset section of color plates wonderfully illustrate this meticulous, fact-filled, professional quality, highly recommended "how-to" guide for anyone aspiring to enhance or restore native plant communities.

Ever increasing my backyard prairie I was really looking forward to this book. Designing and using structure to create an "English Garden" of prairie plants rather than just scattering some seed. Good Idea! A prairie related book that is on a different topic than every other prairie book? Bring It On! Everything sounded cool up-front. Inside the book, however, is page after page of black and white photographs. It's not fun. It's not exciting. I don't want my yard to look like that. Wildflowers are enjoyed for their color and great variety, to see them in black and white is a complete bummer. Flipping through this book is completely unappetizing. For me, the words and authority of the authors become completely lost. Much like a medical school textbook from 50 years ago, there are some color photographs in the center of the book. Printed on heavier page stock and with the description of each subject written in numerical order in the margin, the color photos are an

unappealing interruption. I'm surprised the University of Wisconsin published this book this way. Why would they choose to cut corners on a subject of which they have such a proud history? They have so many other great books on prairie matters. I found this a \$25 disappointment. I'd be happy to give it away. A more appropriate title would be "Natural Landscaping: As Seen By Your Dog".

I have the 1982 edition of this book - I stumbled across it and have been amazed ever since that such a book was written in 1982 before this approach to gardening/landscaping was popular. It is tailored to the midwest, but the technical solidity and sound design concepts should apply anywhere.

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