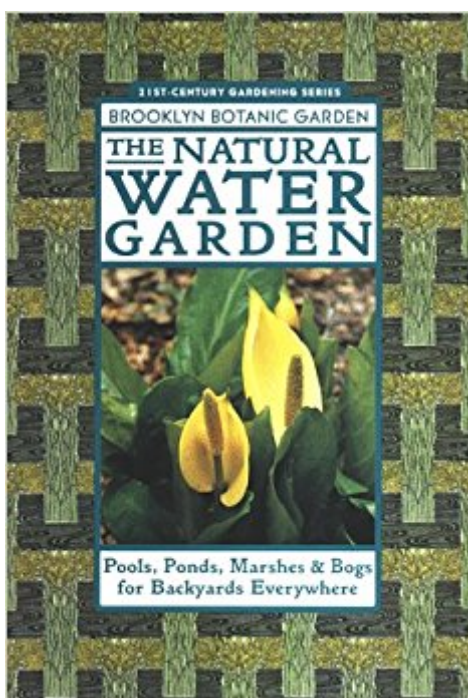


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# The Natural Water Garden (Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guide)



## Synopsis

Chapters (each written by a different professional horticulturist) cover constructing a wetland garden, planting and maintaining backyard wetlands, and various forms of water gardens....

## Book Information

Series: Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guide

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## Customer Reviews

Publishers have been generous with water gardening books in recent years, so to compete for shelf space, new titles should probably offer either comprehensive treatment or a fresh angle.

Fortunately, each of the following titles does both. Horticultural consultant Robinson, who has written several books on water gardening, takes a practical, how-to approach to constructing water features and integrating them into the landscape. Color photos and drawings are used to splendid effect. Included are handy instructions for evaluating purchased plants and fish and for handling routine care and feeding, pests, and diseases. The book concludes with a catalog of plants organized by their function in the garden (submerged, floating, or marginal). Recommended for most gardening collections. Part of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "21st-Century Gardening" series, *The Natural Water Garden* also reviews the basics of installing water gardens, but its value lies in examples of specific wetland gardens. An intriguing example is the "stormwater marsh" created in a Virginia garden by directing rainwater from a roof into the bed via plastic tubing. Concluding chapters catalog wetland plants indigenous to six regions of the United States and list specialty nurseries. This book should appeal to adventurous gardeners and anyone concerned about wildlife

gardening and habitat reconstruction. ?Beth Clewis Crim, Prince William P.L., Va. Copyright 1997  
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This book is brief, clear, and provides many great plant recommendations with helpful details. I live in the PNW, but will be using many of the plants recommended for other areas - building a planting list this way is easy using this book, as it lists the USDA hardiness and sunset zones for each plant!

what I've read this is a great book and my we area will benefit. thanks.

If you buy nothing else for your gardening home library, buy monographs from a responsible organization such as the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. THE NATURAL WATER GARDEN, published in 1997 and again in 2000, is an excellent example of the quality of material you can expect from this fine source. Now you may think you don't need a book like this because you live in the city or suburbs and have no nearby pond or stream you could dam up to make a pond. You would be wrong with that assumption. I live on a small urban plot and have managed to have a water garden and if I can do it you can too. Those of us who subscribe to the BBC TV network remember a fine (apparently no longer extant) series called 'Ground Force'. Every week this team would overhaul someone's garden and without fail, they would find a way to install a 'water feature'. Usually these projects were relatively simple because most of the gardens the team revamped were small urban entities. Once in a while the team would take on a larger project (they once overhauled Nelson Mandela's patch in South Africa, which is how I discovered the Nile Lily). Usually, they dug a hole, lined it with a water-proof liner, trimmed it with stones, and then filled it with various water plants. Once in a while they did something different such as make a water garden in a pot. The BG guide shows you how to create larger and smaller water features, be they bog gardens, soil erosion projects, or marshes, or pools, or ponds. My favorite chapter is the 'storm water marsh, because I have yet to live anywhere in the South where water does not come down in torrents and cascade from the roof in a 'downpour'. Our current house was no exception. I say "was" because we used a number of ideas found in this little monograph to convert the runoff for good purposes. Where water once washed off the house and under it, it now moves out to the yard and under the patio, and collects in the far corner of the back yard, where Viburnum, Aronia, Holly, Hibiscus, Japanese Anemone, Iris, Hosta, Ajuga and Hyacinth congregate and thrive. The Guide mentions Prince Georges County in Maryland as an example of a jurisdiction that promotes building a storm water marsh to reduce the effect of sudden surges in the flow of water which cause flooding in lowlands

and damage the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Although I live across the river in Arlington on higher ground, my county is very Green and promotes similar eco-friendly behavior. The upshot is that you may find buying this little book and using it as a guide may be an act of responsible citizenship.

With the boom in water garden popularity has come the boom in water gardening books. Most of these books are expensive and disappointing, either being pretty picture books or complicated guides to dream water gardens. As usual, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden 21st Century Gardening Series has delivered the goods for under \$10. The subtitle of this book, "Pools, Ponds, Marshes & Bogs for Backyards Everywhere," accurately describes this little jewel. Topics range from stream restoration to landscaping that soggy area in your yard. This tiny book also manages to pack in regional plant recommendations and an excellent resource list along with helpful and inspirational photographs. Buy it!

This is one of the most practical and useful ponding books I have, and I have plenty. One of the best things about it is that it covers topics not mentioned in other ponding books. Most ponding books say the same things. This gives a little extra. It is helpful for the person who wants to keep a pond as naturally as possible, especially for those with large earthen ponds, but also those of us with modest sized lined ponds.

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