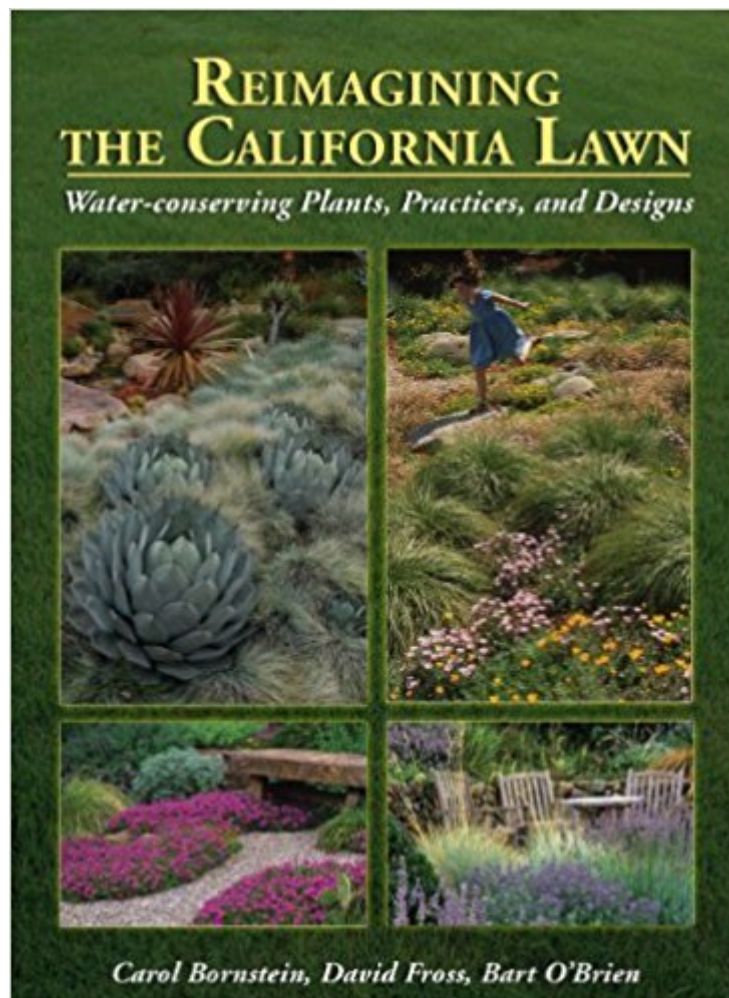




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# Reimagining The California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, And Designs



## Synopsis

Reimagining the California Lawn features water-conserving plants from around the world and offers design ideas and practical solutions to help you create a vibrant garden that complements our mediterranean climate. From greenswards and meadows to succulent and kitchen gardens, this book presents alternatives to the traditional lawn that can reduce water use, beautify the landscape, and attract birds and butterflies. The authors of Reimagining the California Lawn, Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien, are visionary horticulturists who wrote the award-winning book California Native Plants for the Garden. With this new publication, they share their passion for water-wise plants and landscapes to help Californians discover the many possibilities and pleasures that come with reimagining the lawn. If you are thinking about removing or reducing your lawn, this inspiring book is the perfect companion to help you begin the process. Its detailed text provides information about how to plan, install, and maintain an attractive landscape that can replace your lawn and describes hundreds of water-thrifty plants from California and other mediterranean climates of the world. Reimagining the California Lawn is illustrated with more than 300 color photographs and offers a variety of plant palettes to choose from as you begin the process of creating a more sustainable landscape.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Reimagining the California Lawn is a long-needed tool to reduce carbon and water footprints while preserving beauty and utility. No other author or imprint can rival Bornstein, Fross, and O'Brien's

careful selection of species, plant profiles, clear pictures and reliable notes about where each type of plant will thrive and what it will need. -- Emily Green, Los Angeles Times The new book, a typically handsome Cachuma Press product, combines inspiration with practical advice to replace thirsty lawns with something more sustainable and interesting. -- Joe Eaton, Ron Sullivan, San Francisco Chronicle The book California gardeners have been waiting for has arrived... There are plenty of illustrated ideas in Reimagining the California Lawn. One of them is bound to inspire you to make the leap. -- Sharon Cohoon, Sunset's "Fresh Dirt" garden blog Boasting more than 300 glorious color photographs and a wide variety of plant palettes from which to choose, this timely book helps creative gardeners build a beautiful and sustainable landscape. -- K. Reka Badger, Santa Barbara News-Press Reimagining the California Lawn is the book you've been looking for. It will answer many questions and provide guidance as well as practical solutions to common problems during the transition from lawn to a more sustainable landscape. -- Jeanne Santangelo, Marinscope Community Newspapers Reimagining the California Lawn provides a comprehensive set of tools to reinterpret your garden. It's an excellent resource, whether you're planning to replace your lawn, or just make it more efficient. -- Joan S. Bolton, Santa Maria Times If you are interested in reducing or replacing your lawn, Reimagining the California Lawn provides the information and inspiration for a successful transition. -- Tom Karwin, Monterey County Herald The authors display an astounding level of expertise, and offer a level of detail well beyond the range of most gardening books. -- Susan Morrison, "Blue Planet Garden Blog" Plenty of beautiful photographs, clear and concise writing, nice layout. -- Virginia Hayes, Santa Barbara Independent

Carol Bornstein is a horticulturist, instructor, and garden designer. For more than 30 years, she has been an advocate for sustainable, regionally appropriate landscaping. While Director of Horticulture at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, she managed the living collections, retail nursery, and plant introduction program and selected several new cultivars. She continues to seek out exceptional plants for California gardens and to share her knowledge of plants native to California and other mediterranean regions through her writing, teaching, and design work. David Fross is the founder and president of Native Sons Wholesale Nursery, a grower specializing in plants from mediterranean-climate regions of the world. He teaches horticulture at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and is the co-author of Ceanothus. Bart O'Brien is the Director of Special Projects at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, an educational institution dedicated to research, conservation, and horticulture of California native plants. A fifth-generation Californian, he is an authority on the native flora of the state and of northern Baja California and is

an accomplished collector, grower, lecturer, and author. He was named the Horticulturist of the Year in 2005 by the Southern California Horticultural Society and was listed as one of the 100 most influential people in Southern California by the Los Angeles Times in 2006.

Carol Bornstein is a recognized authority on California Native Plants, so I ordered this book for ideas on how to incorporate them into a "lawnless" landscape. The quality of the photographs is not what I had hoped for. Many of them are small for a landscape book and they didn't seem to be that sharp. They probably suffered during the printing process. The plant section is in alphabetical order and has a wealth of information about each plant. She also gives information on how to remove a lawn and offers many lawn substitutes that use less water. I would have liked to see more photos of houses with drought tolerant landscapes, and most of the photos in the book were of individual plants or partial landscapes.

Our front/back yards needed renovation after we moved to the house we bought. Having no experience in landscaping, I wasted quite a lot of money without any positive outcome. Then I bought this book (based on reviews on ) because I wanted to know exactly what plants will be good for my climate (I live in San Diego) and amount of sun my front/back yards get (parts of these get varying degrees of sun light during any given day). I cannot be happier. Here are the pros: 1) Very concise and to the point. You can go through whole book over a week end 2) Though small in size, still covers a lot (and I mean quite a lot) of different types of plants (all of them suitable for California) 3) Quite a number of very good pictures which give you many ideas how to setup different garden styles (book discusses seven different garden styles, I settled on greensward) 4) Very well organized. After discussing individual plant profiles, there is a section which puts plants in different groups for reader to easily make up his/her mind what to use in a particular scenario (for example "Aggressive", "Aromatic", "Bulletproof" and many more) Plants which I finally used in my front (and back) yard, came from the ones discussed in this book. They are growing healthy and look beautiful. I highly recommend this book. But please keep in mind that this is California specific (clearly implied in title)

I read a review in the Los Angeles Times about this book and rushed to buy it since I will replace several lawns with more drought tolerant plantings here in Ventura County, CA.. The book explains how to replace existing lawns with grassy cover "carpet and Tapestry gardens" or simply by adding a combination hardscapes and exotic and native plants in artistic juxtapositions which are endless.

The plants are all shown in existing gardens. In Plant Profiles there is a list of all the plants and their colors and varieties and most of all Climate zones and the degree to which they are drought tolerant, The plants are also graded according to climate and tolerance to heat and cold. There are also list of Selected Plant Palettes for Succulent gardens , with alphabetical lists of almost 100 succulent varieties

Since we live in Southern California where the price of water is rising faster than we can keep up with it we made a decision 18 months ago to exchange 40 percent of our thirsty lawn for plants that need much less water. This was an important and complex project since our neighborhood is larger older ranch-executive homes fronted by a lot of lawn and with very short or low walls delineating property lines. So colorless, thorny plants weren't an option. We hired an excellent contractor and gave him a color palette and an instruction that we wanted year around color and a water bill 40% lower than previously. Our contractor did most of the thinking for us and we really had no written reference at our finger tips. Now the garden is an absolute wonder and includes rabbits and quail. But it is ever changing as our moods suit us or a plant dies -- we've only lost 5 of the 148 original plantings. If you are planning a project like ours or looking for ideas to improve what you've got, this book is an absolute must and deserves to be handy on your coffee table (you will be asked a million questions about your project) both as a reference and because it is a beautiful, informative tome.

I collect books on converting lawn to water-saving alternatives, and this is the best one I've come across. It covers all aspects of the issue and offers plant choices and solutions for a variety of conditions. There is a helpful section on how to take out a lawn. The illustrations are excellent. The section on individual plants, which takes up a sizable chunk of the book, is comprehensive and easy to read, with helpful comments on varieties of the same species. I highly recommend it.

If you live in California and still have a lawn, buy this book. It'll change your ideas about beauty and sustainability. This book is practical more than philosophical. It costs less to have a native and/or water-wise garden...just good home economics, even if you don't care about the planet.

Purchased this book for my daughter & her husband for their new home. It's full of great info, suggestions & beautiful pictures of mature plants. Wish we'd had this book 10 years ago when our front yard was professionally landscaped. Many of the plants died or over ran each other. Basically we got a lot of what the nursery was trying to get rid of & not drought resistant at all. Our yard is

finally mature & looks great, with very low maintenance. I'm hoping this book will cut down on the trial & error we went through.

This is a remarkably well illustrated publication that also works for us Oregon folks, we just have to insert some hardier plants at times. The book is full of suggestions for taking out the lawn and inserting plants that add dramatics and practicality. Water conservation is also a priority and the plants listed sip but do not waste water.

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