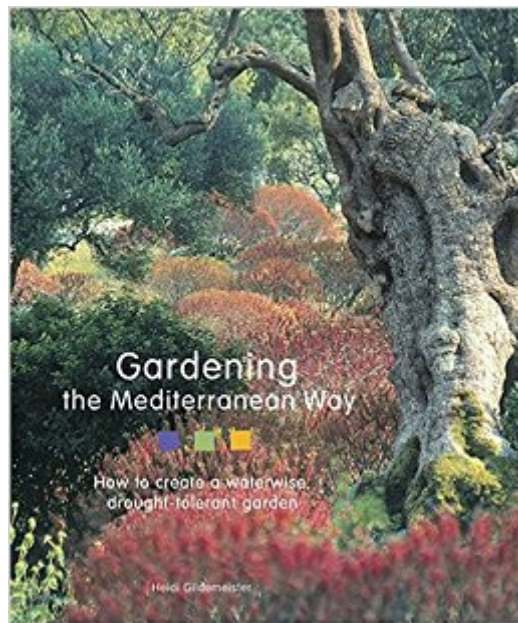




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# **Gardening The Mediterranean Way: How To Create A Waterwise, Drought-Tolerant Garden**



## Synopsis

Over the last 25 years, Heidi Gildemeister has converted a dry landscape on the western Mediterranean coast into a gorgeous, thriving ten-acre garden. Her own experience and research have taught her the secrets of utilizing drought-resistant plants and waterwise gardening practices to allow the soil and plants to absorb enough winter rain so they can survive the dry summer. Now this expert gardener, author of the widely praised "Mediterranean Gardening: A Waterwise Approach, shares her wealth of knowledge in a lovely, inspirational volume that shows us how to create a lush garden in mediterranean-climate regions throughout the world. Her presentation of 20 dream gardens, among them an olive grove in bloom, a haven by the sea, and a scented shade garden, each with extensive plant lists and practical advice, is at the heart of her book, illustrated with more than 200 of her own, exquisite full-color photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mediterranean-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.

Gildemeister 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 Joyce Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

We gave this as a retirement gift along with other books (as the recipient specified gardening books as what she wanted as a retirement gift) and she appreciated it a great deal. She was happy to have this book.

It's an interesting book with quite a lot of useful information, but I didn't find it very inspiring. People with less experience will probably find it more so.

This is the best book for gardening in the Bay area! Love the way they divided the gardens by type so that you can quickly find what you are looking for.

Good

Heidi Gildemeister's garden manual was written for disciplined gardeners who want to live the Mediterranean way and work in harmony with their surroundings. The book describes the process of creating a water-wise, drought-tolerant landscape using native plants. Two introductory chapters cover plant selection, avoiding invasive species, drought survival, layout, color, scale, proportion, and atmosphere. The bulk of the text consists of examples of your personal Eden - dream gardens from which the reader can draw inspiration. Features gardens include an abandoned farm, an urban garden, terracing, a coastal garden, and fruit and vegetable gardens. Includes plant list, glossary, vendor list, bibliography, and full index.

Gardening The Mediterranean Way: How To Create A Waterwise Drought-Tolerant Garden by Heidi Gildemeister (a founding member and former president of the Mediterranean Gardening Society) is a highly meticulous guide drawing on the author's years of experience to create beautiful, healthy gardens that can thrive in areas subject to drought. Featuring environmentally sound techniques that take the effects of the seasons into full account, gorgeous color photography, extensive recommendations of plants that are hardy, versatile, and labor-saving, exhaustively detailed instructions for gardeners of all experience levels from novice to expert, and much more, Gardening The Mediterranean Way is a solid instructional, as beautiful to page through as it is user-friendly. Highly recommended.

Gildermeister goes into detail on several subjects when doing gardening in Mediterranean climates. This book is a great complementary book to her book "Mediterranean Gardening" because it expands on some of the ideas she first presents in that book but, "Gardening the Mediterranean Way" stands well alone because it looks at specific gardening situation in such a way that the reader will not find it lacking. This is a delightful book that gives both novice and experienced gardener a better understanding of med. gardening. The book has wonderful illustrations, photos and great ideas that, in her own words, makes one's garden a 'personal Eden'.

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