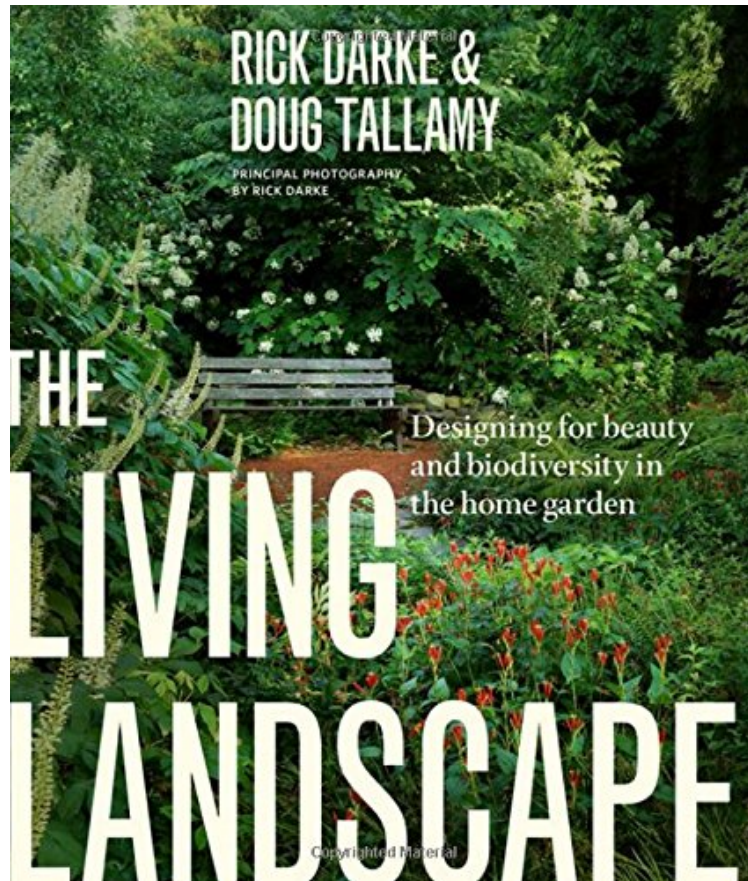


(Ebook free) The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden

# The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden

*Rick Darke, Douglas W. Tallamy*  
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**Rick Darke, Douglas W. Tallamy : The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden:

85 of 85 people found the following review helpful. An Important Addition to Works on Native Gardening By Ginger Woolridge Living Landscape is an important addition to the works on native gardening. The collaboration between Darke, a knowledgeable plantsman and designer of natural landscapes and Tallamy, an entomologist with a terrific understanding of ecosystems, is an excellent pairing. I trained as a landscape architect and have been frustrated by the gap between conservation theory at the university level and practical applications that could be helpful to the homeowner who desires a healthy landscape. The book takes one past the concept of reducing one's lawn to real examples of space planning and the use of plants to support diversity. Tallamy's first book, "Bringing Nature Home", made the critical link between the survival of our native bird population and available insect protein for fledgling birds.

Native insects have, of course, co evolved with native plants and primarily, require our native plants to survive. So there is a very important link between the native plants and our native bird populations. He makes the equally important point that homeowners can help bring back diminishing bird populations. The book is thoughtfully structured around design principles and ecological function. Observations of "Layers" in the wild landscape, including topics like the canopy, understory, waters edge and so on, are discussed relative to layers within the home garden. "The Art of Observation" is educational too. Significantly, among other valuable observations, Tallamy points out the importance of interrelationships of organisms, ecological function and ecological benefits for humans as well as wildlife, and the critical role of biological corridors. Yes, the book primarily approaches the larger suburban property, but it's principles are important to consider at any scale. Several properties are discussed. I found the authors' observations of their properties over time to be valuable. An important gift of *The Living Landscape* is to empower the important and even urgent work of the property owner with a framework. This book does not cover all of the details, but landscape are complicated. There is a helpful list of the benefits of various plants in the book. Given the triple threat of habitat fragmentation, overpopulation of deer and invasive plants crowding out our natives, this is a well-timed publication, so thanks for your work, gentlemen. As I write this review, *The Living Landscape* is no. 1 of 's Landscape Architecture titles. I will recommend and gift this book to landscape designers and home gardeners. 32 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational

By E. Davis I have been a Landscape Architect and garden designer in the SE US for 35 years now. This book should not only change the way we think about designing our gardens but how we think about our role in forming them. I especially like Chapter 4 "The Art of Observation". Thanks to the authors/editors for including a quick reference chart illustrating the ecological functions of several native plants for the SE (by Dr Larry Mellichamp). I will recommend this book to all my future garden design students. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Best Book for Ecosystem Design

By aiwf *Living Landscape* is the best native plant book I have read. Been a California native plant gardener for years, selecting plants with the intention of supporting my local ecosystem (bees, butterflies, moths, caterpillars and birds both local and migratory we're on the pacific flyway), reducing water use and planting native edible plants. As good as Doug Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home* was, *Living Landscape* is better because it addresses design, while adding all the info quantitative info! - about how to design a garden to support local ecosystems. You want birds? You need caterpillars to feed adult and baby birds. *Living Landscape* has the numbers of caterpillars needed 9000 per baby bird clutch! So get out there and plant native plants because caterpillars cannot eat leaves from imported plants. I planted blueberries (native to the mid-Atlantic states) blueberry leaves don't get eaten by my local California caterpillars. For those who plan to select plants based on how many caterpillar species that plant supports, Doug Tallamy and his graduate students have their quantitative data available for free in an easy to use excel spreadsheet. This data optimizes my garden's ecosystem and can optimize your garden's ecosystem. <http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/what-to-plant.html> *Living Landscape* is downright gorgeous. Full color photos of natives from the mid-Atlantic states. Scented azaleas and scented rhododendrons are pictured in all their glory in this book. Sigh. If you like *Living Landscape*'s ecosystem approach to gardening, then consider a few additional books (below) that provide more detail about pollinators and human edible and medicinal uses (ethanobotany). To support local pollinators, Gordon Frankie's *California Bees and Blooms* is an excellent book on California pollinators, including how best to plant to feed and house them. Gordon Frankie has a website with an easy to use plant list. I've spoken with him the plants that he recommends are not just top pollinator plants, but also survive well in gardens (yes, I'm looking at you deerweed. I planted 7 of you and 2 of you survived. Deerweed is much loved by bees, but the plant has a high death rate in cultivation) <http://www.com/California-Bees-Blooms-Gardeners-Naturalists/http://www.helpabee.org/best-bee-plants-for-california.html> The fabulous excel-like reference at the end of *Living Landscape* for all the US areas (except California and Hawaii Hawaii desperately needs more natives planted your bird population is crashing) includes some limited human edible native plant references. The best reference book for human edible and medicinal US native plants is *Native American Ethnobotany*, by Daniel Moerman. You need *Native American Ethnobotany* to select the delicious natives you will plant, as well as to know what is safe to eat during the zombie apocalypse. Daniel Moerman's website, with up to date info on species missing from the book, is available at this link. <http://herb.umd.umich.edu/Native American Ethnobotany> Unlike *Living Landscape*, *Native American Ethnobotany* has no pictures and has no map of the Native American tribes, so you need to know which tribes' ethnobotany you want to understand and you want to make sure you see a color picture of the plant before you eat any of it. For LA, *Native American Ethnobotany*'s info on the Tongva and Gabrielino tribes from the LA area is limited. USDA's James Duke created an ethnobotany database. This is useful for additional, modern (not historical, as in the ethnobotany research) medical uses. <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/> James Duke's gorgeous retirement garden is here <http://thegreenfarmacygarden.com/jim-and-peggy-duke/> Every state has a native plant society. Native plant societies have nice people, great garden tours and often share seeds and cuttings, so consider joining your local native plant society. California native plant nurseries are listed on the California native plant society (CNPS) website. [http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/nurseries.php#s\\_coastal](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/nurseries.php#s_coastal) Wild Ones is a Wisconsin-based native plant and pollinator support group. Wild Ones support the Xerces Society Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. <http://www.wildones.org/http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/> One of the joys of gardening with natives

includes the opportunity to participate in the US NPN National Phenology Network's citizen science project. USANPN is studying when our natives bloom and what birds, insects and other animals eat and inhabit those plants, so please consider adding your garden to USANPN.<https://www.usanpn.org/>If fireflies are (or could be) in your area, there is a firefly citizen science project identifying where fireflies still exist. Native plants plus leaf litter = fireflies. Your (east of the Mississippi river) native plant garden could support fireflies fireflies are gorgeous![https://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/baruch/firefly\\_project/](https://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/baruch/firefly_project/)For California native plant gardeners, Las Pilitas nursery has a wonderful website with California native plant pictures and info about the plant's water, sun and soil needs, as well as how to support specific birds, including hummingbirds.<http://www.laspilitas.com/>Theodore Payne is an excellent seed source for California native plants. They also offer native plants for sale and have a beautiful demonstration garden.<http://theodorepayne.org/>For Los Angelenos who missed the ethnobotany info they need in Moerman's book, a combo of the books below are useful.Foraging California Christopher NyergesForaging California: Finding, Identifying, And Preparing Edible Wild Foods In California (Foraging Series)Edible and Medicinal Plants of the West Gregory TilfordCalifornia Foraging - Judith Larner Lowry California Foraging: 120 Wild and Flavorful Edibles from Evergreen Huckleberries to Wild Ginger

Many gardeners today want a home landscape that nourishes and fosters wildlife. But they also want beauty, a space for the kids to play, privacy, and maybe even a vegetable patch. Sure, its a tall order, but *The Living Landscape* shows how to do it. By combining the insights of two outstanding authors, it offers a model that anyone can follow. Inspired by its examples, you'll learn the strategies for making and maintaining a diverse, layered landscapeone that offers beauty on many levels, provides outdoor rooms and turf areas for children and pets, incorporates fragrance and edible plants, and provides cover, shelter, and sustenance for wildlife. Richly illustrated with superb photographs and informed by both a keen eye for design and an understanding of how healthy ecologies work, *The Living Landscape* will enable you to create a garden that is full of life and that fulfills both human needs and the needs of wildlife communities.

From BooklistInterest in the native plant movement is slowly growing, but this guide will interest all gardeners as Darke and Tallamy go beyond simple gardening tips to describe how native plants can play essential roles in gardens designed for multiple purposes, with a focus on proven functionality. Beauty ranks high as a value and function, and the authors also note such equally important garden purposes as screening and cooling. They cover the various botanical, cultural, and temporal layers in wild landscapes, the interrelationships of living organisms, what landscapes do ecologically, the cultivation of appreciation for the wonder of nature's processes, and diverse home garden applications. Abundant color photographs of herons, egrets, turtles, and other animals enhance images of biodiverse landscapes and instructions for using native plant cuttings to create interior decor. The authors also provide useful grids showing selected plants landscape and ecological functions organized by North American regions. Essential for gardeners and nature lovers interested in sustainability. --Whitney Scott This thoughtful, intelligent book is all about connectivity, addressing a natural world in which we are the primary influence. The New York Times Books Two giants of the natural gardening world, Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, have collaborated on their best work yet. The New York Times Gives meaningful definition to the idea of biodiversity . . . . the book offers guidance for creating beautiful landscapes that will be durable and support life without sacrificing aesthetics. Publishers Weekly Essential for gardeners and nature lovers interested in sustainability. Booklist A fascinating and beautiful book on creating gardens for wildlife. Library Journal With beautiful photos and many examples, they argue eloquently that gardens can be civilized, lovely and even elegant while incorporating local plants and creating habitat for birds and the entire ecosystem in which they live. Chicago Tribune A rich guide on creating sustainable landscapes. Sunset Will become the most popular book of the decade. Real Dirt Heres the book of the season, worth contemplating all winter long for the heartfelt and elegant practicality of its environmentalism. . . . Darkes beautiful photos stress the interconnectedness of nature, while illustrating how to create healthy ecosystems that serve humans, plants, animals, insects and birds. Pacific Northwest Magazine *The Living Landscape* will enable you to create a garden that is full of life and fulfills both human needs and the needs of wildlife communities. The Detroit News *The Living Landscape* by Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy is a beautiful guide to creating and maintaining a landscape that is not only beautiful and functional for its human inhabitants but also offers food and shelter for wildlife. Daily Herald Both a primer on how landscapes develop in the wild and a manual for learning how to observe wild areas and then apply nature's principles to your own garden, the book has breathtaking photographs by the authors of wildlife including birds, butterflies, moths, turtles, and bees luxuriating in habitats provided by gardens designed with their needs in mind. Gardenista