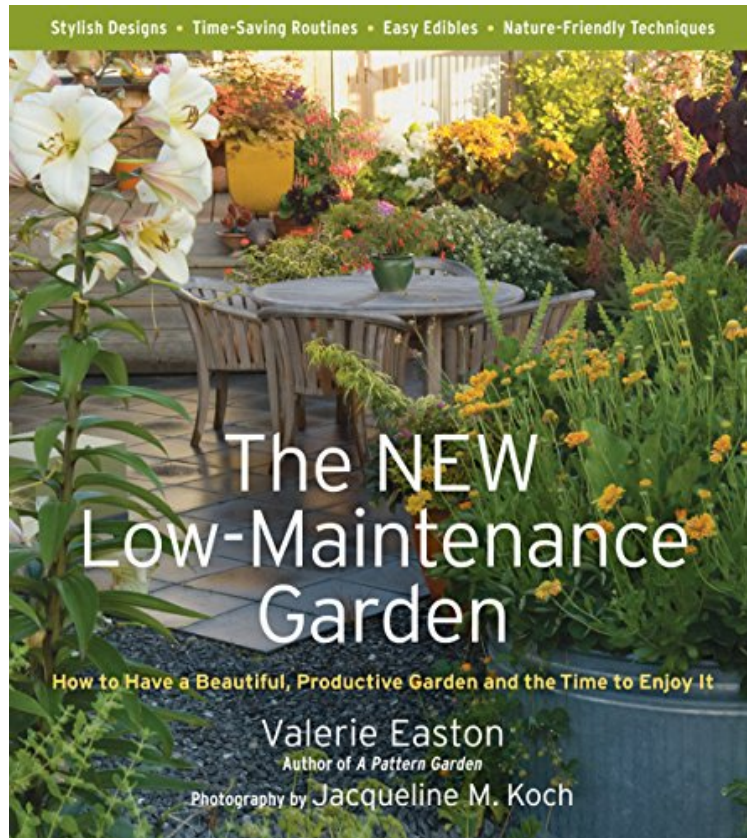


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# The New Low-Maintenance Garden: How to Have a Beautiful, Productive Garden and the Time to Enjoy It

Valerie Easton, Jacqueline Knox

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**Valerie Easton, Jacqueline Knox : The New Low-Maintenance Garden: How to Have a Beautiful, Productive Garden and the Time to Enjoy It** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Low-Maintenance Garden: How to Have a Beautiful, Productive Garden and the Time to Enjoy It:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Info and Easy ReadBy S. HudakThere are many books on this subject and I own a lot of them. I decided on this one because of the word "new" in the title; curious to know how we can do low maintenance differently. I was not disappointed. The information is presented in an easy to read format that describes gardens around the country with different zones and varied concepts. Each story is accompanied by good pictures to further explain and to inspire. Depending on the needs of the garden owners, the story may focus on less plants/more hardscape or more foliage/less flowers; but each story explains how that garden was successful. At the end of each section, the author sets out a great list of resources to further your education: books, videos, websites.Throughout the chapters there are recommendations on how to incorporate sustainable aspects in your

garden; how to attract wildlife; how to enjoy your garden without spending hours working in it. The format is great. You can view just the pictures and associated text and learn a lot; the main text is divided by gardens so it is easy to flip around if you want to read about your type; and the writing is well written and informative--specific plants are recommended in each topic to help with pulling together the "look". This is one of the best garden books I've purchased to date -- it has inspired me to complete my one acre garden -- believing that it can be maintained without hours of daily work.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great Book, Lousy Chinese Print Job  
By Reviewer 77  
The quality of the writing in this book is excellent, and it has a lot of helpful information and inspiring ideas and photos. Unfortunately, it is not a pleasure to use the book because of the lousy Chinese print job. I hope the authors are listening so they don't ruin their next book. The font is TERRIBLE and makes reading difficult and irritating, something the reader is unable to forget during the entire reading experience. Therefore, reading is not a relaxing, enjoyable experience. I guess the publisher saved two cents by using a font so small, light, and annoyingly "delicate" that it uses less ink. You almost need a high-powered magnifying glass to read the photo captions. The photos are unpleasant to view and actually look much better on the "Look Inside" viewing option. I'm not a pro photographer, so I don't have the technical language, but I'll try my best. The photos are dark, muddy, and are not crisp and clear, making it difficult to discern all objects in the photo. The pages have a "glare" to them, so the reader must constantly shift the book to attempt to see each entire photo. The paper has a weird, slightly "sandy" feel to it, which I believe has something to do with a coating that makes it difficult to see the photos. Finally, the printing on each page in the bound area starts and/or ends too close to the binding, again necessitating endless shifting of the book to read it. Or the reader could keep pressing hard on the binding to attempt to flatten the book to read it better, although this will quickly destroy the glued (not sewn) binding, causing the pages to fall out and the book to fall apart. Suggestion: Bring those printing jobs back home to the USA and do it right the next time. Let the Chinese spend more of their time killing us with melamine-laced human and pet food, and creating clothes with material so thin you're embarrassed to wear them to the office and have to watch them fall apart after a few cleanings.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Most useful gardening book I've ever purchased  
By jgintx  
I was the gardener who would wander with a new plant purchase in hand, trying to figure out where to put it. Despite my love of plants and enjoyment of gardening, the large border garden in front of my house was scraggly in spots, overgrown in others, often weedy, and just plain incoherent. This book changed all that. It taught me to ruthlessly cull plants that were doing well but didn't thrill me, along with those that weren't flourishing, and those that were taking over, to create a well-edited garden that can be enjoyed in multiple ways. I first read the whole book not long after it was published and then revisited it in early spring for the next couple years. I just got it out again, thinking of a friend who is planning a yard renovation after retirement. On re-reading the first couple of chapters I realize just how much I absorbed from this book and how helpful it's been. Some reviewers complain that the book doesn't give plant recommendations for their areas or that the style of gardens in the book doesn't suit them. I see this book as providing a very practical foundation for the layman. There are many good books on garden style and plant selection. My garden is a mostly native xeriscape, and I used the books "The American Meadow Garden" by Greenlee, "Plant-Driven Design" by Ogden Ogden, and a couple plant reference books for my state for style inspiration and plant information. But I could not have done it without The New Low-Maintenance Garden.

Do you ever lament that you'd love to be able to garden more, but just don't have the time? The demanding pace of modern life leaves little space for the pleasures of gardening. On the other hand, gardening itself could be the culprit: elaborate, traditional perennial borders; water-hungry or disease-prone plants; needy lawns; and high-maintenance plants that require staking or clipping all suck up precious hours. Simply put, we need to start gardening in a whole new way. In this inspiring book, Val Easton shows exactly how to have a low-maintenance garden that doesn't sacrifice style. You won't have to give up your favorite plants or settle for expanses of ugly bark nuggets. You just have to unlearn some bad old habits and pick up some good new ones. So, how do you go about making a "new" low-maintenance garden? First, design your garden with maintenance in mind--good-looking hardscape will both save weeding time and showcase your favorite plants. Second, simplify your garden routines--learn the most efficient planting and maintenance techniques and don't get stressed if everything isn't letter-perfect. Third, learn how to work with nature rather than against it. And finally, embrace home-grown fruits, herbs, and vegetables; well-planted containers; and thoughtfully chosen plants. The New Low-Maintenance Garden doesn't just tell you how to garden in a whole new way--it shows you, through profiles and beautiful photographs of real gardens that embody low-maintenance techniques. The pressures of life are not likely to ease up anytime soon, but the lessons of this timely book will help you banish guilt over undone garden chores and revel in your garden successes.

A well-informed and useful guide that will appeal to gardeners all over the country. Recommended. Library Journal  
If you'd like a beautiful garden but find yourself on the treadmill called life, this book just might help you understand its doable. . . . Provides inspiration while steering readers away from traditional elaborate perennial borders, water-hogging and disease-prone plants, high-maintenance lawns, and time-consuming plants that require deadheading,

pruning, and constant care. Newsday Over the years, countless books have espoused a low-maintenance approach to gardening. None have been as engaging, practical, or inspiring as this latest of Eastons contributions to the gardeners bookshelf. Pacific Horticulture A handy guide to a garden you can raise without a corresponding increase in your blood pressure. . . . Handsome and informative. Metropolitan Home As we gardeners of a certain age look for ways to simplify our lives but still keep our fingers in the dirt, I can see Eastons book being referred to again and again. Anchorage Daily News Will be embraced by gardeners facing the limitations of an aging body or the time constraints of a busy career; by gardeners who want an inviting place to enjoy being outdoors; and, not least, by designers who are asked by nearly every client for a low-maintenance garden. Digging The book is not a how-to manual, but through examples of real-life gardens, offers inspiration for turning gardens into beautiful, sustainable, easy-to-care-for outdoor spaces. Cleveland Plain Dealer This book is an invaluable addition to the garden library destined to be a classic for many years to come. Garden Design Online If youre looking for photographic inspiration, key tips for garden victory, additional books and resources, or success stories from other gardeners, youll find it all in this well-written, easy-to-navigate guide. Sacramento Book Easton shows us how to garden reasonably without feeling overwhelmed. . . . A long overdue cry for gardening sanity, with guidelines for restoring balance to our lives. Portland Tribune Shows authentic beauty achievable by regular folks like you and me, as opposed to gardening super-heroes who spend every waking moment plucking dead blades out of their chive plants. Life on the Balcony You look and say I want this, realizing that your desire has everything to do with the sanctuary garden that Easton is calling you back to. Low-maintenance is just the part of the equation that gives you the time to enjoy the sanctuary you create. Fresh Dirt