

‘Creating the Prairie Xeriscape’ by Sara Williams

Book Review by Gwen Steele

I am delighted that ‘Creating the Prairie Xeriscape’, is finally back in print. It’s the best resource I have ever found for gardening in the Okanagan climate.

Author, Sara Williams spent three years doing extensive revisions and updates.

For the same price as the original book, \$34.95, there are 100 more pages and coloured photos on every page. It is a beautifully designed and written book.

In addition to extensive, easy to follow information on the Seven Principles of Xeriscape, there are detailed plant profiles and photos of over 900 drought-tolerant plants, all suited to our climate.

There are very helpful charts to aid in selecting the right plant for height, light, bloom colour and time.

William’s book convincingly illustrates that xeriscaping a space does not require the use of gravel, rocks and landscape fabric. The photos and landscape plans show how colourful and varied a xeriscape can be.

She makes it easy to get started and learn by doing. Adapting even one principle, such as mulching your current garden, will drastically reduce water use and maintenance time.

Williams promotes xeriscaping for many applications such as condominiums, urban yards, farms, acreages, and public spaces such as parks, parking lots, schools and libraries.

She has 20 years experience using xeriscape principles and testing plants while gardening on five acres of sand near Saskatoon. She has a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. in Horticultural Extension from the University of Saskatchewan. Williams served as the horticultural specialist with the Extension Division of the University of Saskatchewan for 12 years.

Available in the Central Okanagan from OXA. Contact:

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