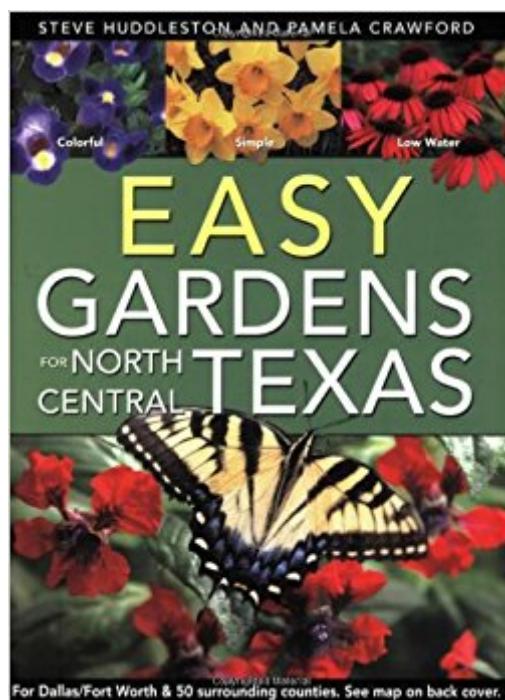


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# Easy Gardens For North Central Texas



## **Synopsis**

This groundbreaking book shows beginners and experienced gardeners alike how to create gorgeous gardens with the easiest, colorful, low water plants that north central Texas has to offer. It features over 1000 spectacular photos of annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees that thrive with little or no irrigation and only require minutes of care per year - plants that can breeze through hot, humid, Texas summers while attracting butterflies, birds and hummingbirds. Shop for plants like a pro by taking the book with you to garden centers and checking out the latest information on the newest plants around from people who have grown them! Create traffic-stopping color combinations from the over 150 easy examples shown. The book is extremely easy to follow, with thousands of color photographs, as well as many budget gardening tips. For Dallas/Fort Worth and 50 surrounding counties. Area includes Wichita Falls, Sherman, Denton, Arlington, Fort Worth, Dallas, Abilene, Temple, Kileen, and Waco.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Raised around a great-grandfather that was born with a hoe in his hand, a grandmother that let him plant anything in her yard, and parents that loved to work in the yard, Steve Huddleston has had his hands in the dirt since the age of three. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in horticulture from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Arts degree in another field from the University of Arizona. In Texas, he has worked at the Dallas Arboretum and as a horticulturist for the cities of Grand Prairie and Grapevine. Since 1994, he has been the senior horticulturist at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. He produces a monthly cable TV show entitled Your Garden and broadcasts weekly on Neil Sperry's lawn and garden show on radio station KRLD. He writes for Neil Sperry's

GARDENS magazine, Dallas/Fort Worth House & Home, and Mansfield Magazine. In addition, he is the president of Blooming Concepts, Inc., a landscape consultation, design, and installation company. Pamela Crawford has authored eight gardening books. In addition to designing gardens for over 1500 residences, her work has been featured on the cover of Better Homes and Gardens publications as well as in Southern Living, HGTV Magazine, Fine Gardening, Country Gardens, Country Almanac, Small Gardens, and in over fifty newspapers. As an expert in her field, she has appeared on the Fine Living Network, Fox News affiliates and numerous local tv shows. Pamela has been heavily involved in trial gardens, both on a university and private level. Her goal is to find plants that give the most color for the least amount of care

For any north Texan who has ever killed a plant or anyone who doesn't like a lot of yard work but enjoys the beauty of a garden, this common-sense approach gives clear, honest, and endearingly repetitive advice for planning and maintaining a garden. Written in a comfortable, conversational style, I felt like I was strolling through a garden with the author! Since I live in Fort Worth, I armed myself with this book (as he says repeatedly BYOB) and visited the Botanic Garden where many of the plants are labeled. This made the viewing experience delightful and enabled me to see the plants before investing in their purchase, and, of course, being able to actually see the plants rather than imagine them in your garden made the words in the book come to life. I also appreciated how the author tells the reader what to plant and the mistakes he's made himself with some plants, what worked and didn't work. In addition, the symbols in the book, such as what plants are favored by deer or the Blue/Red Ribbon plants, alert the reader to those requiring the least care. Furthermore, the copious, color photos of every identified plant are beautiful, and I especially valued the recommendations/photos on choosing which plants to group together in containers for maximum attractiveness and compatibility. This book is definitely a worthwhile investment!

If you are reading this review it because you A) are interested in gardening and in doing something with your landscape and gardens, and B) you live in North Texas...in which case you need to go directly to ORDER THIS BOOK, now. I have a good dozen or so books on plants and horticulture but this is my go to book. Other reviewers here have explained the book's structure. I should like to say that there is nothing that compares with this book when it come to familiarizing yourself with the plants that will provide what you are looking for in terms of location, color, adaptability, compatibility, and care. I have wasted a ton of money over the years on plants that I thought were cool, but which are not feasible in our zone or in the locations in which I planted them. The Blue Ribbon rating

system in this book will save you money and disappointment. The sidebars on Characteristics, Growing Conditions, and Planting and Maintenance are worth the price of the book. And I don't think I have any other book in which the photographs are so remarkably true to life. I don't know how they did this but it is amazing. This book would be a bargain at twice the price. When you order, buy two or three, or more because you are going to love giving this book as a gift to your gardening family members and friends. And they will love you for it.

We had landscaping professionally put in around our backyard pool last summer. We wish to take care of the maintenance ourselves. I found this book online and the reviews were all excellent so I purchased it. I am so glad I did! The book is divided into 5 sections: the basics, annuals, perennials, shrubs and vines, and trees. Within each section there is a 2 page spread for each flower/plant type they are describing (with great identifying photos). The book advises where to plant (U.S. zone, type of soil, & amount of light), how often to water, common pest problems and how to treat. It also describes when to plant, when to do trim and fertilize. For a novice, it is an excellent resource. Great for those who want to do it themselves. The only negative I could say about it is that it doesn't have all the plants that surround my pool. Most notably our Katie Ruellias (Mexican Petunias). Otherwise, it seems to be very comprehensive. I was able to find out some information about Ruellia from Neil Sperry's Complete Guide to Texas Gardening. Neil Sperry's book had a better write up on Lamb's Ear also. I was also able to get additional information online. If you are debating between Neil Sperry's book and this book, I would opt for this one. Everything you need to know about any particular plant is right there on a 2 page spread. You don't have to hunt around the book. Neil Sperry's book probably has more types of plants in it but the descriptions and care information are more detailed and easier to follow in the Easy Gardens book. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to do their own gardening but isn't sure how to go about it. With this book, I don't think you can go wrong. I feel confident that I can properly take care of our plants now.

My husband is planning a kitchen garden and this book is a great guide for what he can grow here in north central Texas

This is a beautiful book with lots of helpful information. It's like an updated Neil Sperry's "Complete Guide..." with a greener emphasis and more of a focus on ornamentals. I appreciated the icons for hummingbird/butterfly attractors, as well as their emphasis on water-wise and plants tough enough for NTx. In my opinion, that's where most Texas gardening guides fall short--TX is so diverse that

what works well in one place won't do well in my heavy clay soil, so much of a book with a general overview doesn't apply. I didn't give it 5 stars, though, because I was hoping it'd be more like "Home Landscaping, Texas". That gives specific layouts and so is super helpful in planning gardens. The problem with that book, of course, is that it's geared towards all regions, not just zones 7-8. "Easy Gardens" also doesn't have any info on fruits or vegetables, which I found disappointing. I would love veggie garden and fruiting plant/tree information specific to our zone. I'll have to continue to rely on Neil Sperry, thorough but not up to date on the newest varieties, and of course geared towards all of TX. Despite those minor flaws, it's a great book that will get use from NTx gardeners.

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