

Unwatered Landscapes and Crevice Gardening

Two developing approaches to saving water and growing cool plants

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Unirrigated Landscapes

They are:

- Maintenance and Resource-Driven Design
- Have a place, not everywhere. Limits to their use.
- Specialized design, execution, technique, maintenance.
- Deep mulch/topdress
- Guaranteed target aim if there is no irrigation system
- No way, it's economically feasible?

How?

- Rain harvesting {there's a book for that}
- Native/truly xeric plant selection. (Sorry, Lavender lovers) {High and Dry: Bob Nold}
- Bareroot planting {Dry Gardening Handbook: Olivier Phillipi}
- Palatable design {Get to work and figure it out, my friends}

(Rock) Crevice Gardens

What the heck is that?

- First mention in Britain, 1800s, perfected in the Czech Republic
- American approaches
- Rock garden culture
- Offers ability to grow difficult plants
- Aesthetic: hey man, they just look cool
- Weaknesses

How do they work?

- Surface and sub-surface drainage
- Water storage
- Temperature, moisture, and sun microclimates
- Contrived soils
- The "Brazil nut effect"- decreasing particle size.
- Good physics/architecture is hard
- Good art/design is hard
- The frontier/unexplored is massive. Let's go!

Crevice Resources

Stephanie Ferguson's NARGS articles:

Part 1, Page 210: www.nargs.org/sites/default/files/free-rgq-downloads/VOL_69_NO_3_0.pdf

Part 2, Page 314: www.nargs.org/sites/default/files/free-rgq-downloads/VOL_69_NO_4_1.pdf

A video of my over-exhaustive lecture in the J. C. Raulston Arboretum:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgzlVChYX0I