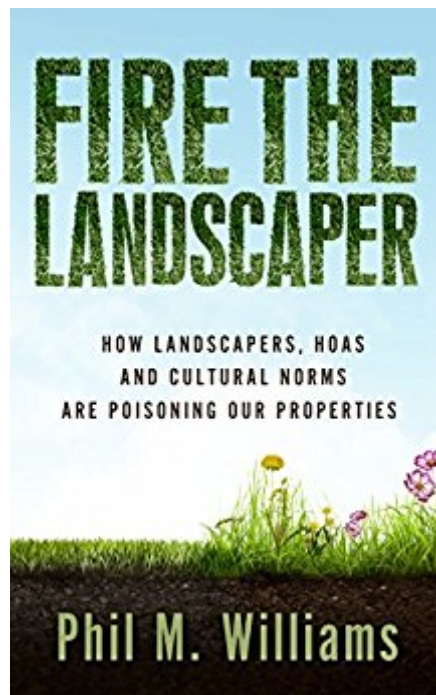




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Fire The Landscaper: How Landscapers, HOAs, And Cultural Norms Are Poisoning Our Properties



Synopsis

"Rarely does a gardening book raise eyebrows, let alone hell."-Diana Morse
Fire the Landscaper is a biting critique of current landscape design and maintenance practices. The book explores the health risks, cultural biases, origins, and the insults to Mother Nature caused by our culturally backed, legally enforced obsession with artificial representations of nature. The author, Phil Williams, is a former owner of a successful lawn and landscape company. He exposes the waste, fraud, and downright ridiculousness of an industry focused solely on aesthetics. Through his subsequent training as a permaculture designer, he offers many practical solutions aligned with nature to increase the health and productivity of landscapes, and the world by extension, while simultaneously reducing the workload of upkeep.

Book Information

File Size: 6897 KB

Print Length: 153 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Phil W Books; 2 edition (September 3, 2015)

Publication Date: September 3, 2015

Sold by: Æ Æ Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B013IJTUBE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #321,813 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #10

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Customer Reviews

Phil does it again. I haven't read one book by this author that I haven't thought was excellent and

thought provoking and this one doesn't disappoint. I know absolutely nothing about lawn and landscape care, about pesticides, about plants, and gardening, in fact, I've killed several cacti in my life. All of my friends would leave their kids or pets with me as they know I would take care of them and protect them as if they were my own, but not one friend or family member would leave me to water or care for their plants. I'd end up killing them. For real. My HOA is very strict about aesthetics to the point that we have a special committee running it that patrols the neighborhood looking for infractions. I understand the want, the need, to have residents understand that they can't paint their houses purple or black or pepto-pink, but I think they go a little far with how controlling they are about every aspect of our yards. They even gave me a notice because I had an invisible dog fence put in without getting pre-approval which, apparently, they wouldn't have approved. Did anyone catch that it's an invisible fence? They turned another resident down before we moved into the neighborhood a few years ago. We like our dog Buddy to have the freedom to roam our yard at his leisure and putting up an actual fence we knew for sure was not an option as they are verboten (forbidden in German). Anyhow, Phil points out lots of interesting things, things I never even thought about. I can tell you that I think that my lawn company mowing my lawn every single Thursday for the majority of the year is not necessary. It's the equivalent of a man getting a haircut every other week. You can do it, but it's totally unnecessary. I think I'll have to talk to my landscape company. Now I don't have the property that Phil has where he can have a permaculture farm and I do have an HOA and if I want to live here in relative peace, I have to pick my battles, but there are things I can do and I will look into implementing what I can. Read the book, you'll learn a lot. If you want to read thought provoking, interesting fiction books and one other non-fiction book, read Phil's other books. He's a very insightful, interesting and intelligent guy and it shows in his writing. Check out his author page and get started on one of his books. You'll be glad you did. Enjoy!

A gem of a book that gets to the essence of why we should and can be designing our yards to provide for ourselves and Mother Earth so everyone is healthy again. It's entertaining and informative at the same time. I personally have been at the receiving end of an HOA dispute that caused me to move out and I can say that Phil Williams' description of the problems that HOAs can cause is spot on. The only thing I might have wished for in the book would have been more photos of his beautiful place. But I couldn't put the book down and read it straight through. It's unusual that a book about gardening is that engrossing. But it's not just about gardening - it's about a healthy and content life. I highly recommend "Fire the Landscaper".

It was interesting and informative. It was also inspiring and supportive of my crafty and creative mission to keep the polk plants and such other "weeds" I grow here in this back lot of an HOA like trailer park. Only one lot looks better than mine imo, the rest are dead zones of frantic mowing and plain rectangular boxes. I also have the only painted door, turquoise, to ward off the bad mojos. Lol!

I listened to *Fire the Landscaper* as an audiobook on the author's podcast at foodproduction101.com where he read it for listeners. It was such a good read (or listen) that I came over to and bought a copy of the ebook to support the author's efforts. Phil walks the reader through his personal journey from cutting lawns to a multimillion dollar landscaping business poisoning the land to permaculturist healing the land. He also chronicles the tyranny of local governments and HOAs in telling property owners what they can and can't do on their own land while using fines and the threat of force and violence to make the property owners comply with what government politicians and bureaucrats want. Give it a read and checkout the author's podcast and website for more great content.

Several years ago, I started pinning and liking what spoke to my soul, and quickly learned about urban homesteading, radical gardening and permaculture. Permaculture, like every radical idea, has those who are those who oppose it simply because they don't understand it and it challenges the status quo. Mr. Williams' book illustrates the mindset of these people and just how dangerous it could be to have them in low-level but powerful positions, such as on a hoa board. Informative, fun read on how property-owners' fundamental rights to use their own land to grow food is being infringed by quasi-government entities.

All I can say is wow. Just wow. Although FtL reads like a beginners guild on WHY polycultures / permaculture are important, I've learned an incredible amount, things I thought I'd already grasped. I wish I had a photographic memory, so that I could share these truths with the hubs and talk him into creating an ecosystem here in our 1/4 acre suburbia lot that is only months away from a landscape design! Mr. Williams had me in tears a few time with his rich descriptions, story telling, and simplistic revelations of truth to a simpler, richer way of living. A definite MUST READ for everyone - and I mean everyone.

Wonderful book about how to live a better life, starting with your immediate environment. Author relates personal experiences with the challenges and joys of changing his thinking about

landscaping and putting those new thoughts into practice. Also tells harrowing stories about the tyranny of democracy, where the few dictate to the many with complete legality. Highly recommend.

This is a great, quick read. Very refreshing and it's about time that we all woke up to the ways we are hurting our environment and thereby hurting ourselves in doing so. Phil seems like he's a very level headed guy and all the explanations of what he is doing with his property made perfect sense. It may not look perfect, but we ALL need to start healing our yards rather than poisoning them!

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