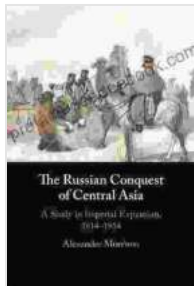


Taming The Wild Field: A Comprehensive Guide to Landscaping Natural Areas



Taming the Wild Field: Colonization and Empire on the Russian Steppe by Willard Sunderland

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Natural areas are a vital part of our planet's ecosystem. They provide habitat for wildlife, clean our air and water, and offer us places to relax and enjoy nature. However, natural areas can also be challenging to manage, especially if they are overrun by invasive species.

In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the art of landscaping natural areas with a focus on controlling invasive species, planting native plants, and creating sustainable habitats. We will also provide tips and resources to help you get started on your own natural area landscaping project.

Controlling Invasive Species

Invasive species are non-native plants or animals that have been introduced to an area and have become a threat to native species. Invasive species can outcompete native plants for resources, such as sunlight, water, and nutrients. They can also spread diseases to native plants and animals.

There are a number of ways to control invasive species, including:

- **Manual removal:** This involves physically removing invasive plants by hand or with tools. Manual removal is most effective for small infestations.
- **Chemical control:** This involves using herbicides to kill invasive plants. Chemical control should only be used as a last resort, as it can also harm native plants and animals.
- **Biological control:** This involves using natural enemies, such as predators or parasites, to control invasive species. Biological control is a more sustainable option than chemical control, but it can take several years to be effective.

Planting Native Plants

Native plants are plants that have evolved to live in a particular region. They are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, and they provide food and habitat for native wildlife. Planting native plants is a great way to improve the health of your natural area.

When choosing native plants for your natural area, it is important to consider the following factors:

- **Site conditions:** Native plants should be chosen based on the site conditions, such as the amount of sunlight, water, and soil type.
- **Wildlife value:** Native plants should be chosen for their value to wildlife. Some native plants provide food for birds, butterflies, and other animals, while others provide shelter or nesting sites.
- **Aesthetic value:** Native plants should be chosen for their aesthetic value as well as their ecological value.

Creating Sustainable Habitats

In addition to controlling invasive species and planting native plants, there are a number of other things you can do to create sustainable habitats in your natural area. These include:

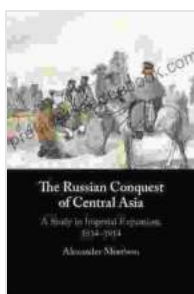
- **Managing water resources:** Water is essential for all life. In natural areas, it is important to manage water resources carefully to ensure that there is enough water for both plants and animals.
- **Creating wildlife habitat:** Wildlife habitat can be created by providing a variety of food, water, and shelter resources. This can be done by planting native trees and shrubs, creating brush piles, and installing nest boxes.
- **Reducing human impact:** Human activities can have a negative impact on natural areas. To reduce human impact, it is important to stay on trails, avoid disturbing wildlife, and dispose of trash properly.

Landscaping natural areas is a challenging but rewarding endeavor. By following the tips and advice in this guide, you can create a beautiful,

healthy, and sustainable natural area that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

Additional Resources

- National Wildlife Federation: Native Plants
- Audubon: Native Plants
- Invasive Species Compendium



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