Gardening in the dry

with Dea Fischer,
Horticulturist,
La Jardiniere Gardens
Is this a dry garden?
Or is this a dry garden?
Or how about this one?
A sea of gravel -v- Beth Chatto
The Gravel Garden
This... is a dry garden.
“But it was the extreme variation in growing conditions which intrigued us, the possibility lying before us of growing plants adapted by nature to different situations.”

- Beth Chatto
Flowered from May to November 2018. City allotment location, never watered once, no natural water sources other than rain or dew fall.
Why do they succeed?

- Location
- Structure
- Soil
- Water
- Plant selection
Location & Structure

• Choose the right site. Part shade minimizes stress.

• Use hardscaping to slow down runoff and create seep-down pockets.
Essentials of Life: Soil and Water

• Observe microclimates before you plant
• Improve the soil
• Limited fertilising = hardiness
• Encourage deep roots
• Mulch, mulch, mulch
• Plant small, gain resilience
• Remove competition
And now to the plants . . .

- Observe nature: desert, prairie, dry-meadow and high-altitude natives
- Choose for ‘low water requirement’ rather than tolerance to drought
- Choose plants which suit the site’s soil type and aspect, don’t fight nature
- Group plants with similar moisture needs in the same area
General Resources
Drought Resistance Resources
Dry Garden Resources
Questions