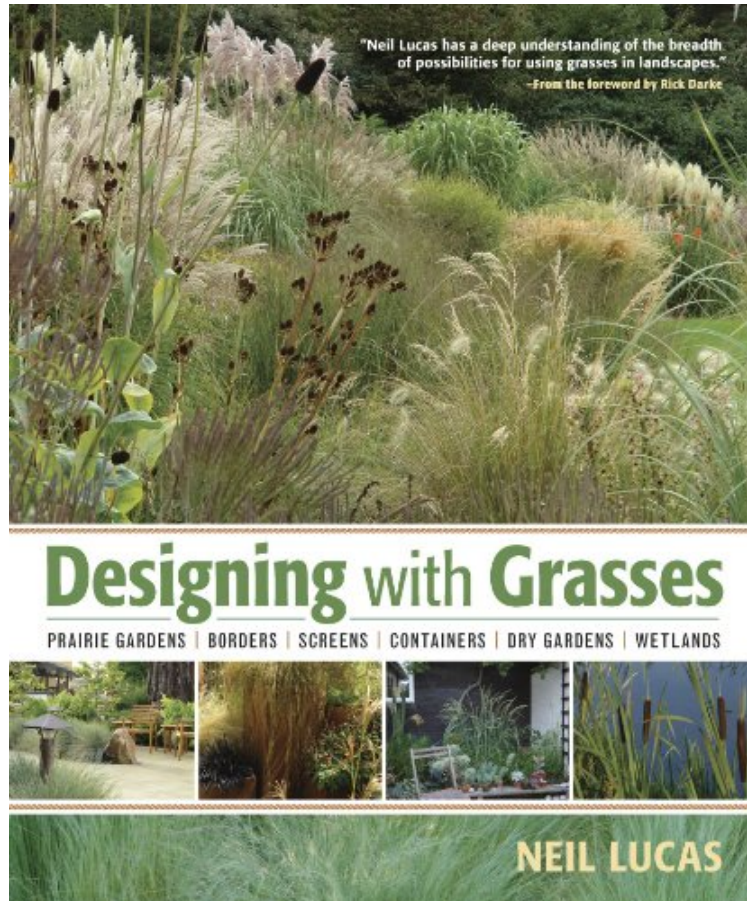


## Designing with Grasses

*Neil Lucas*

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#647427 in Books Timber Press 2011-01-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.63 x .88 x 7.88l, 2.09 #File Name: 0881929832276 pages | File size: 18.Mb

**Neil Lucas : Designing with Grasses** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Designing with Grasses:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I wanted a book that covered native grasses which this ...By joy I wanted a book that covered native grasses which this one really doesn't. It focuses on exotic grasses from other countries with just a few native grasses.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth it!By Dianne AllenI haven't read this book thoroughly, but what I have read is very good. The pictures are outstanding and in color.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Designed to Convert and DelightBy Wiltshire BookwormI've always had a bit of a struggle with ornamental grasses. Too much tackling couch, then a highly invasive zebra grass at our first house have put me off them somewhat. Then my garden here goes from deep shade through to Mediterranean in just a few steps, so I haven't really managed to see how they'd fit into my current garden either. But then I started reading Designing with Grasses. The author Neil Lucas owns Knoll Gardens in Dorset, famed for its grass specialism. He has a deep understanding of grass communities both in the wild and in cultivation, so is the ideal person to showcase exactly what they can do for a garden. He's very much an advocate of 'right plant right place' and as there are species

found in every area of the world, he's confident they have an important role to play in all kinds of situations. In the book Neil shows us both natural and planted grassland communities which provide structure for just as long as the more familiar perennials and shrubs, with the added bonus of movement to boot. They're also low-maintenance, tough and provide food and shelter for wildlife. There's lots of well chosen photographs illustrating their versatility and just how diverse this plant group is. I felt my prejudices beginning to crumble. On top of all this, Neil describes the making of the Decennium border at Knoll, designed to show-off grasses in a naturalistic style, which is a marked departure from our more traditional looking flowerbeds. Instead of the border being at its best for just one season, it's designed to provide interest for a much longer period without the need for staking or dead heading. The resulting combination of grasses with perennials photographed over the growing season well into winter opened my eyes to the possibilities. There then follows a multitude of recommendations for particular situations such as pots; sun-baked, gravel and drought; woodland and shade; or wet and waterside. Then everything is brought bang up to date by considering particular 'jobs' grasses are good for: erosion control, habitat restoration and green roofs to name but three. Whilst I was reading these chapters and drooling over the photographs, I suddenly found myself looking out the window at our front lawn and thinking 'hmmm Hakonechloa (a rather attractive clumping grass) would look rather good there'. A massive chunk of the second half of the book is the Directory of Grasses and Grass-Like Plants which describe hundreds of possibilities and where they will do best. Notes on their maintenance and a handy guide to planting densities means I will be able to start growing my grasses with confidence once I take the plunge. In summary, *Designing with Grasses* is the definitive guide to the successful growing of this most varied group of plants. NB this was first reviewed on .co.uk

*Designing with Grasses* shows gardeners not just what grasses are available, but how to design with grasses in different settings, including meadows, lawns, green roofs, and more. Design ideas are supported by carefully devised maintenance techniques, design checklists that make designing achievable by gardeners of all ability levels, and lists of grasses best for a variety of situations, including low-maintenance, drought-tolerant alternatives to the traditional lawn grasses and grasses suitable for green roofs and erosion control. An encyclopedic A to Z of grasses includes profiles with information on growth and care.

This clearly written and well-designed book will appeal to landscape designers and gardeners. Two green thumbs up! *Library Journal* A directory of grasses and grasslike plants is a useful reference. *Landscape Architecture* [The author's] knowledge combined with technical advice and great photography make this an inspirational book, suitable for all keen gardeners. *The Garden*