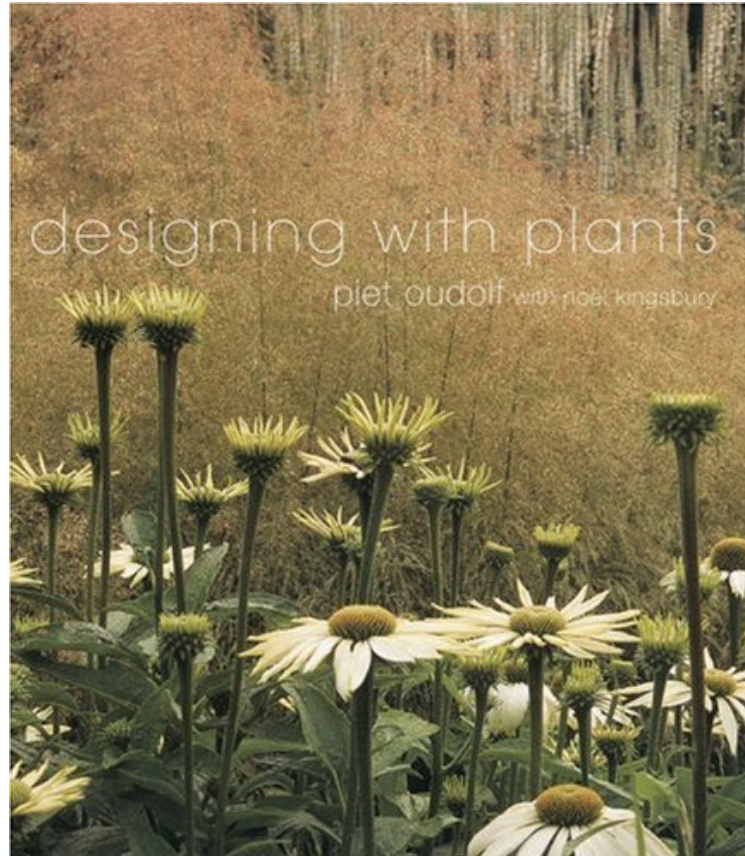


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Designing with Plants

Piet Oudolf, Noel Kingsbury

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Piet Oudolf, Noel Kingsbury : Designing with Plants before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Designing with Plants:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nature gently nudged by an understanding hand By Kiwi I love this method of gardening and I want to tour Mr. Oudolf's gardens, wherever they may be. I find the man's marrying of flowers and grasses and the to be the next best thing to mother nature's plan. It is so pleasing and soothing to the soul. 59 of 59 people found the following review helpful. Refreshing and Inspiring By Don Kline This is not a reference book for active, summer gardening. This is an inspiring book for winter gardening by the fireside, a book from which to dream, plan and design and to gain a liberating aspect of gardening. This book presents a peerless horticultural perspective on natural habitats and how these might be brought to gardens, delivering unique ways of planting and seeing by shape, form, color, size, texture and, singularly, by light. In this the author awes the reader with the beauty of plants affected by the seasons and their elements: light, fog, dew; rain, frost and snow. As a practical tool to aid the shaping of these gardens, he includes an unconventional index that lists the characteristics, cultural requirements and companions for selected plants. The photography is stunning, enlightening and informative in its content--and valuable.

Through their exemplary quality, serious gardeners and professionals will discover a freer and more natural mode of horticultural expression. This is one of the few gardening books that both stimulates and satisfies the spiritual and aesthetic quests of many gardeners.⁹ of 9 people found the following review helpful. Inspiration and ImplementationBy Garden MavenPiet Oudolf is one of today's garden design geniuses. He gives us a book that is both inspiration and implementation. He inspires readers to design gardens that are carefully crafted but appear utterly natural. Then he gives us new, creative tools to make these garden designs. Oudolf focuses on plant structures and gives us easy categories for the forms of herbaceous garden plants. He emphasizes mood, light, movement, and rhythm in garden design. Always thinking outside the box, he even champions spent perennials at season's end. Gorgeous color photos illustrate all points. A must-have for both dreamers and gardeners with dirty hands.

Trained as an architect, Oudolf values plants as much for their form and texture as for their color. He is the founder of New Wave planting, a spectacular naturalistic style of landscape design. Oudolf stresses the importance of choosing plants that "live well and die well," so that from birth in the spring through the crescendo of summer to the stark beauty of autumn and winter the garden presents continuing drama and interest.

.com When your new gardening bible comes with chapters entitled "Birth," "Life," and "Death," you know you're in trouble. But be brave, turn to those chapters, and in some very practical little essays on planting, you'll uncover the very down-to-earth principle from which Piet Oudolf's radical reinvention of gardening is based: plants die. In the traditional mixed border, shrubs, climbers, perennials, bulbs, and annuals defy mortality; when one plant passes its best, there's always another in the wings, waiting to grab the eye. But such borders have very little impact: there is too little at any one time to hold one's attention. Oudolf wonders why we fight the unavoidable. Why not create borders that bring out the beauty of plants throughout their natural cycles? Oudolf also thinks our obsession with color is another deadening influence on current gardening practice. Plants have form: leaves, flower heads, and stems have beauty and variety, too, and last far longer than any bloom. Why not create gardens that use the whole plant, not just its genitals? This, as you've probably already guessed, is a recipe for perennials, and without any of that anxious autumn rush to cut down those perfectly lovely bare stems and seed heads. With these versatile plants, Oudolf would have us all create gardens that change month by month, week by week, even day by day. It's a radical, beautiful vision that's absurdly easy to achieve. In *Designing with Plants*, Noel Kingsbury has done a terrific job of bringing Oudolf's work within reach of the rest of us. --Simon Ings, .co.ukFrom Library JournalA garden designer and plant breeder, Oudolf designs gardens that use perennials exclusively, eschewing the current trend toward high-maintenance mixed borders of perennials, annuals, and shrubs. He values perennials for their form and texture, emphasizing structure as the most important aspect in successful garden design. The color of flowers comes in a distant third after the form of the plant and the shape of the leaves; Oudolf's motto is "a successful plant combination relies primarily on shapes." To help gardeners follow this principle, he lists plants he has found valuable based on what he calls a "palette of shapes" and gives diagrams for planning borders based on them. While his approach is novel and thought-provoking, it reflects the context in which he works, mainly Britain and Northern Europe. But even if you do not garden in this ideal maritime climate, his ideas will be helpful, especially his advice on when to break the rules: "To be a successful gardener you need to understand the basics of how plants grow, and how they develop over time." Recommended for large public and academic libraries.ADaniel Starr, Museum of Modern Art, New York Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistWidely respected in Europe, Oudolf is known for garden schemes that focus on perennial plants and their changing forms throughout the seasons. The Dutch nurseryman's designs integrate such elements as swaying grasses, distinctive flower forms (umbels, plumes, globes, buttons, and the like), and the curtainlike effects created by delicate tracteries of leaves and blooms on plants with many stems. Calling on an appealing palette of plants, Oudolf's gardens feature well-chosen combinations of flora that appear stunningly naturalistic, and, moreover, where seedheads, dying vegetation, and the spent qualities of dormant plants merit regard. The text's descriptions of plant species will enlighten novice gardeners, who can also glean important aspects of garden planning. Passionate gardeners will find challenging new ways to look at plants amid Oudolf's exciting suggestions. The beautifully photographed book offers a trove of valuable advice that promises to help gardeners achieve the delightfully moody character of an Oudolf border. Alice Joyce