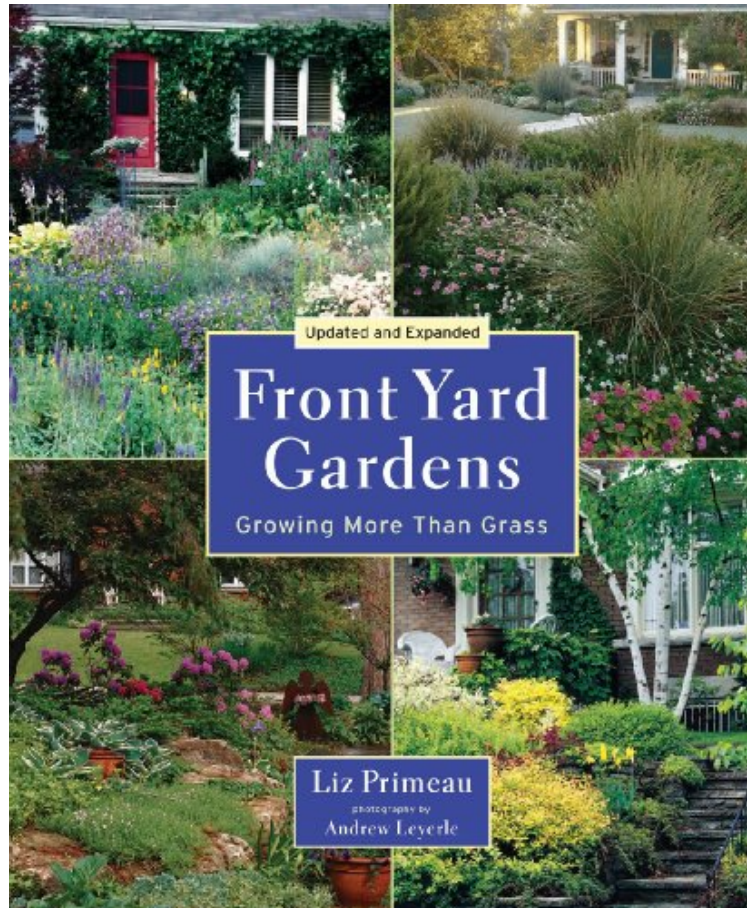


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Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass

Liz Primeau

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Liz Primeau : Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not for Western, Mountain, or Southwestern Gardens!By sgkritzikIf you buy this book, be clear that the vast majority of the emphasis is on the area of Ontario, Canada, where the author lives, especially her own yard. Mostly, she shows replacing lawns with water-intensive shrubs and perennials. As a Californian, I was hoping to find some less thirsty ideas for the West. But this book has very few examples of this. It is only suitable for folks living in the Midwest and Eastern US and Canada. Disappointed and returned it.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. but I would have liked to see planting plans for the picturesBy CodybanI gave it 3 stars because it did not meet my expectations. I found the photos and text interesting, but I would have liked to see planting plans for the pictures. It does me little good to know the names of the plants if I can't identify them in the picture. I was looking for a guide to planting rather than pretty pictures. It is a worthwhile book and might be enjoyed by others with different expectations.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Grass is for grazing livestockBy DebWhat a delightful book, full of photos and wonderful ideas. We've already replaced most of the grass

in both the front and back yards with gardens. Neighbors, dog walkers and joggers stop by to tell us how much they like what we've done. We see all sorts of birds and butterflies in our yard now. If you don't have the time to visit major botanical gardens and arboreta to gather ideas (like we did), this book will be a great help to you. Digging up that first shovel full of grass is the hardest part---but caution, you may find yourself addicted to beautiful gardens and digging up the rest of the lawn.

Praise for the first edition: "The book is handsome, informative and amusingly written, and it should serve as an inspiration to those who are tired of old-fashioned lawns." -- Publishers Weekly Liz Primeau was ahead of her time when she transformed her manicured lawn in the suburbs into a mixed garden with a profusion of flowering plants, shrubs and cacti. Ever since, she has enjoyed an eye-catching front garden that requires no chemicals and little watering. Packed with practical tips and more than 250 beautiful photographs, this new, revised edition of *Front Yard Gardens: Explores the history of the lawn and our attachment to it Profiles 75 front yard gardens from across North America Provides step-by-step instructions to start and grow a fabulous front yard garden This new edition of a classic guide covers planning and design, removing the grass, enriching the soil and planting and maintaining the garden. It is divided into several types of front yard gardens, including cottage, minimalist, secret, neighborhood, downtown and natural. Primeau discusses the key elements of each type and also provides a comprehensive list of complementary plants for each. In this expanded edition, Primeau chronicles how her own garden and neighborhood have evolved, profiles several new and delightfully different gardens, and offers timely advice such as eco-friendly solutions for controlling bugs and weeds. Front Yard Gardens is an inspiring treasure-trove of ideas for home gardeners.*

From Publishers Weekly Primeau, founding editor of *Canadian Gardening* magazine, posits that a perfect lawn may not always be a good thing, arguing that well-manicured lawns are high-maintenance, chemical-dependent water guzzlers; she would be happy to see them all replaced by the flower gardens so often relegated to the back yards of urban and suburban houses. Starting with the luxuriant display of flowers, foliage plants, and shrubs in her own front yard in Toronto, she discusses more than 70 front yard gardens, most of them in Canada but some in Texas, Arizona, California and Wisconsin. She divides these front yard gardens into eight types-cottage, small city, opulent, minimalist, fusion (some grass allowed), natural, neighborhood and secret-and shows in text and photographs how they were designed, how they reflect the personalities of their owners, and what plants were used. There can be obstacles to such gardens in cities and suburbs-neighbors' objections, local regulations, overhead and underground wires, bad drainage, and hard surfaces-and she describes how many people have overcome these problems. Unfortunately, Primeau doesn't include among the many splendid photographs in the book any that show how one of these colorful gardens would stand out in the context of a block where all the other houses are fronted with carpets of grass. But this is a small matter. The book is handsome, informative and amusingly written, and it should serve as an inspiration to those who are tired of old-fashioned lawns. 240 color photographs. Garden Book Club and Country Home Garden Book Club selection. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Alternatives to the traditional lawn effectively cut down on water usage and may also play host to beneficial insects and birds. Once the desire to do away with grass takes root, readers can turn to Primeau for help in rejuvenating a front yard so that flowers, foliage textures, and hardscaping come together in inviting swaths to both beautify and benefit the environment. Options presented range from cottage style to a minimalist approach stressing restrained designs. Even fusion plans are included, showing landscapes where small areas of grass combine with beds, borders, or expansive plantings. Primeau's Canadian point of view proposes plant lists spanning the mild realm of Vancouver, cold-winter regions of Winnipeg and Toronto, along with a smattering of gardens from Texas, Arizona, and Wisconsin. Useful as a source book, this volume presents photographs and text that suggest potential ideas to increase curb appeal through the transformation of front yards and parkways. Alice Joyce Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved For an in-depth look at designing, *Front Yard Gardens, Growing More Than Grass* by Liz Primeau is a thorough guide to a splendid collection of gardens. Although it is primarily for non-edible gardens, it provides helpful planning tips. (Grit Gazette) With so many great photos of front yard gardens, this book provides a great motivation to rip out grass in your front lawn. (Janice Kreider GrowingEdibles.com 2008-11-25) Liz Primeau offers wise guidance on how to go about converting a costly front lawn into an attractive home entrance with curb appeal. The lavishly illustrated text contains proposals for a diversity of gardens before different style homes in a range of climates. Some are photographed at different times of the year so that the viewer will have greater awareness of the seasonal changes, which affect the look of a home entry. What sets this inspiring book apart from similar works is the author's practical, environmentally friendly advice and step-by-step instructions on gardening in the front yard. (National Garden Clubs 2010-06-01) The green green grass of home doesn't interest Liz Primeau. She's a front yard rebel and proud of it. Her 65 by 40-foot lawn is long gone, replaced by a gregarious gathering of vibrant vegetation -- fabulous flowers, cacti, shrub and small trees. The results are spectacular. (Joanne Richard Wetaskiwin Times-Advertiser 2009-05-02) Must-read resource. (Bill Brooks Calgary Herald 2017-07-13) Packed with practical tips and more than 250 beautiful photographs, this new, revised edition of Firefly's *Front Yard Gardens* explores the history of the lawn and our

attachment to it. The book profiles 75 front yard gardens from across North America; provides step-by-step instructions to start and grow a fabulous front yard garden. (Rob Mooy Kingston This Week 2010-07-01)Primeau's inspiration for a front yard garden originated in Amsterdam, but most of the featured yards are from Southern Ontario. The rest of Canada is included, as are places in the United States. Of particular interest is watching her front yard metamorphose from all grass with a few foundation plants to a full-frontal flower fantasy. The 75 featured yards provide inspiration in their own right, but it's the listing of plants and when they flower that enables the reader to replicate this look at home. The lush photographs by Andrew Leyerle make the reader aspire to the same beauty. The book explores different types of front yard gardens: cottage, small city, opulent, minimalist, fusion, natural, neighbourhood, and my favourite, secret gardens. The index is very helpful and of particular note, so is her recommended reading. The Canadian resources are a treat for northern eyes. Front Yard Gardens isn't just another pretty flower book, it's one for the reference shelves and should be well-thumbed by novice and expert gardeners alike. (Peggy Mackenzie Toronto Star 2010-05-22)This is a picture book of beautiful gardens, as well as hints and instructions on how to turn your dull front lawn into a lush and blooming year-round vista. You have a choice of cottage, minimalist, opulent, shady, natural or even secret gardens--and no more mowing. (Annie Boulanger Burnaby Now 2010-06-26)I love this book! The photographs are plentiful, large and inspiring. The captions are extensive and informative, highlighting and explaining what is shown...Oh, for time, money and energy enough to create a garden like these! If you like houses and gardens, get this book. (Escarpment Views 2010-08-22)Primeau provides a variety of approaches to the front yard garden. (Terry Peters North Shore News 2010-09-15)[of previous edition:] Showcases more than 70 gardens from around the country that tackle the challenge of front yard design from a variety of perspectives. (Rita Pelczar American Gardener 2003-10-15)[of previous edition:] Help in rejuvenating a front yard so that flowers, foliage, textures, and hardscaping come together in inviting swaths to both beautify and benefit the environment. (Alice Joyce Booklist 2003-05-01)[of previous edition:] Visually compelling book, full of varied design suggestions. (Canadian House and Home)[of previous edition:] All the tips and photographs prove that you can keep off the grass -- step by step -- with style. (Jo Calvert Canadian Living 2003-07-01)[of previous edition:] The photographs are delightful and the text is written in informative and heartfelt prose. (Sylvia Jenkins Central Coast Adventures)[of previous edition:] Turn your yard into an earth-friendly showstopper. (Bonnie Schiedel Chatelaine)[of previous edition:] It's a gorgeous book. (Mairi MacLean Edmonton Journal 2007-06-21)[of previous edition:] Will inspire homeowners to contemplate the use of flowers, shrubs, trees, ornamental grasses and creatively placed paths as the mainstay of their home's curbside beauty. (Patty Jessome Edmonton Sun 2003-03-29)[of previous edition:] Wonderful photographs... a range of designs from minimalist to lush jungle to a swath of native grasses. (Marjorie Harris Globe and Mail 2003-08-09)[of previous edition:] Inspirational ... great tips on how to plant so your garden doesn't clash with the neighborhood. (Sherry A. Firing Globe and Mail 2003-04-26)[of previous edition:] A witty and very well written volume that offers so much more than just details on basic gardening... a must for anyone who wants to create impact and dazzling color in their front (and back) yard gardens. (Niki Jabbour Halifax Daily News 2005-11-25)[of previous edition:] I love this book... Primeau is a terrific writer and gardener, and this marvelous book just might inspire and guide you into a whole new level (and area) of gardening. (Robert Howard Hamilton Spectator 2003-10-31)[of previous edition:] [Primeau] provides more than 200 photographs of examples where lawns were ripped up and replaced with free-flowing, more environmentally friendly (and prettier) plants. (HGTV.com 2003-06-19)[of previous edition:] Offers another compelling reason for putting flowers out front: Flowers look good... the concepts and how-tos for eight gardening styles are helpful. (Kathy Huber Houston Chronicle 2003-12-20)[of previous edition:] [Starred review] This substantial book takes a refreshing look at front yard gardens ... Filled with practical ideas, Primeau's encouraging text is liberally supplemented by lush photos ... Highly recommended. (Bonnie Poquette Library Journal 2003-05-15)[of previous edition:] The results will not only look superb, but will require no chemicals and take far less time and water to maintain. (Ken Smith London Free Press 2003-07-12)[of previous edition:] Alternatives to lawns ... from cactus austerity to full-blooming exuberance. (Michael Lassell Metropolitan Home)[of previous edition:] Very well written and illustrated book... thousands of ideas. (Stuart Robertson Montreal Gazette 2003-12-13)[of previous edition:] Very good. (Jamaica Kincaid New York Times Book 2003-06-01)[of previous edition:] Conversational text and lovely photography by Andrew Leyerle make this edition an interesting choice for home gardeners. (Phoenix Home and Garden)[of previous edition:] The book is handsome, informative and amusingly written, and it should serve as an inspiration to those who are tired of old-fashioned lawns. (Publishers Weekly 2003-02-17)[of previous edition:] Excellent primer on the rewards and challenges of starting a yard garden. (James Grainger Quill and Quire)[of previous edition:] More than 70 examples of the kinds of front yard plans others have come up with, and a how-to manual that gives extensive lists of plants. (Verne Clemence Saskatoon Star Phoenix 2003-04-12)[of previous edition:] I've just finished reading [this book], and I've got to say I'm feeling excited and inspired. I should also mention that this makes my husband more than a little nervous. (Susan Mulvihill Spokane Spokesman 2003-06-27)[of previous edition:] Wonderfully literate. (Laurie Grassi Style at Home Magazine)[of previous edition:] A well-written 232 pages, the authors knows of what she writes, having been there, done that and showcasing the landscaping to prove it. (Ian Munt Sudbury Star 2007-04-03)[of previous edition:] Great photographs

... full of interesting ideas on ways to take a different approach to an often blah and boring space. (Sonia Day Toronto Star 2003-05-17)The cottage garden, the secret garden, the minimalist garden and others are clearly illustrated for the reader. It's like visiting a garden show with instructions! This is a very nice publication for those considering making a change in their landscape. (National Gardening Association Newsletter 2012-04-05)