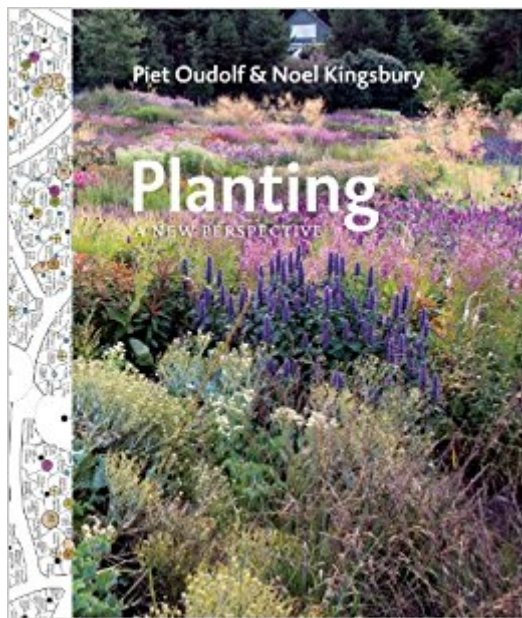


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# Planting: A New Perspective



## Synopsis

Planting: A New Perspective is an essential resource for designers and gardeners looking to create plant-rich, beautiful gardens that support biodiversity and nourish the human spirit. An intimate knowledge of plants is essential to the success of modern landscape design, and Planting makes Oudolf's considerable understanding of plant ecology and performance accessible, explaining how plants behave in different situations, what goes on underground, and which species make good neighbors. Extensive plant charts and planting plans will help you choose plants for their structure, color, and texture as well as the way they perform in the landscape. A detailed directory with details like each plant's life expectancy, the persistence of its seedheads, its tendency to spread, and propensity to self-seed, this book is a beautiful and invaluable resource.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Designers of some of the world's most distinctive gardens, Oudolf and Kingsbury bring their unrivaled expertise and iconic aesthetic sense to bear as they consider twenty-first-century trends and challenges confronting both home gardeners and landscape professionals. Faced with concerns such as sustainability, biodiversity, nature deficit, and water reclamation, they extol high-performance designs that aim to collaborate with nature rather than control it. In truth, their gardens are paragons of apparent spontaneity, exhibiting an exuberance that seems neither forced nor contrived. Through innovative plant combinations and naturalistic landscape designs, modern gardens can address contemporary opportunities such as green roofs and urban prairies with an air

of casualness that belies the importance of ecologically sound planting methods. Teeming with delectable examples of the authors' signature, free-flowing gardens, the book also includes a comprehensive, at-a-glance plant directory that both private gardeners and industry professionals will find helpful. Luscious photographs and meticulous explanations of techniques and methods make this an essential reference guide and constant source of inspiration. --Carol Haggas

Indispensable. . . . an impassioned plea for packing beds tightly, interlacing species lightly, choosing plants that survive multiple stresses, [and] letting seed heads stand through winter.

"The New York Times Book Review "Luscious photographs and meticulous explanations of techniques and methods make this an essential reference guide and constant source of inspiration."

Booklist "In *Planting: A New Perspective* (Timber Press), written with fellow landscape architect Noel Kingsbury, Piet Oudolf details for the first time the specific ingredients that go into his horticultural alchemy, and even includes original plans and plant charts."

Elle Decor "This is a thoughtful, insightful guide that deserves serious consideration."

Library Journal "It treads a well-pitched line in providing gritty information to the professional and the amateur alike. It is fascinating to see this pinnacle of public naturalistic planting explained and contextualized."

The Guardian "No one does ecology-based plant harmonies better than these two, and it's just so sweepingly, stunningly beautiful. A fascinating and technical exposition of how Piet has changed the way plants are used."

The Telegraph "In *Planting: A New Perspective*, Oudolf and Kingsbury detail what it takes to design, plant, and maintain the new nature-like landscapes. This is a how-to book that will leave you with the information, courage, and enthusiasm to approach your own landscape in a new way. The authors leave no doubt about the importance of natural beauty to human life, and they show how to reproduce aspects of it successfully."

Landscape Architecture Magazine "A fascinating insight into Piet Oudolf's approach to design."

Gardens Illustrated "Features groundbreaking design principles that can be applied to the home garden."

Garden Design "The book includes an extensive plant directory, which covers detailed information about each plant mentioned in the book; from the plant measurements, flowering season and spreading ability to the foliage architecture (plus lots more). It is a great guide for anyone wishing to try out the style Piet Oudolf uses in his magnificent gardens."

The English Garden "A wonderful primer for the home garden."

Chicago Tribune "No one does ecology-based plant harmonies better than these two, and it's just so sweepingly, stunningly beautiful."

Pacific Northwest Magazine "A

This is a very enjoyable and informative book about 'naturalistic' planting design. It focuses on the forms/architecture of perennial plants and theories of how to combine them for visually richness. It reviews many well-known designers' styles and techniques and breaks them down into a clear, easy to understand language and syntax. It is focused more on open, sunny planting sites, but does briefly mention woodland edge plantings - in any case, the design language is the same, but the syntax is different. There are many rules of thumb to note, but the whole book is a great collection of planting design theories that have been well tested. I recommend this if you are a hobby gardener looking for the techniques used for 'magazine cover' plantings or if you're a designer who wants to understand the history, evolution, and theory of planting design to inform your own creativity. I haven't found another book that discusses theory so thoroughly and in a manner that is so clear and adaptable.

An excellent reference for anyone wanting to design landscapes and gardens in an ecologically sensitive manner. The only problem is that it focuses on east coast and European gardens, so many of the specific plant recommendations don't work in the west (some are even invasive here!) But the design principles and ideas for different ways to lay out large areas in a naturalistic way are invaluable.

Mostly for professionals only, and I love it!!! (I am a very busy landscape designer-always looking for new inspirations) this book has plenty.

This book represents a coming together of the trends here and in Europe to change the look and feel of perennial beds based in part on weather, available water and space. The plantings of Millennium Gardens in Chicago, as well as authors Roy Diblik and Lauren Springer Ogden, are US examples of this same philosophy. Samples of bed layouts are given in this book - always helpful when one tries to see what the authors are describing. I should add that none of these authors or examples promote "no maintenance", but rather "wise maintenance" based on the environmental conditions that influence each garden and its plants.

I was disappointed in this book. True, there are some lovely photographs of the High Line, the Lurie Garden and other projects. There is a reasonable, albeit long-winded, discussion of designing a garden to mimic nature, but the production values are wanting, which is surprising because I have many books from Timber Press. The author makes reference to many plants that are not listed or

described in the book, the plant is only included in a large garden dominated by grasses. I had to guess what plant he was describing. In some cases, I wrote down the name of the plant to look for it on the internet. At the back of the book there is a plant list, divided into three categories: perennials, grasses and ferns. There are no photographs of most of the plants listed; there is a schedule, similar to a spread sheet, which attempts to describe the plant. In this section of the book, the photographs of the individual plants vary greatly by quality; some are out of focus, some show flowers and no leaves, some show leaves and no flowers, most were not in scale. I had the impression that the photos were just lying around and were not taken specifically for this book. It seemed odd that there were photographs of the most common plants but no photographs of lesser known and rarer plants. The author includes many diagrams of the plant designs of many, many gardens, including block-by-block patches of the High Line. While of interest, this is over-kill and the pages would be better used to show the plants described in the gardens. Lastly, there was a sameness to the gardens featured in the book; this sameness encouraged me to study the photographs with great care. By carefully examining the photos, it was possible to discern the subtle differences between the gardens featured. The gardens in the book were in full sun; it would be interesting to know how the Oudolf principles apply to shade gardens which cannot support the many grasses featured.

The planting style described in this book could be used in a home garden but the book is actually about designing for larger public spaces. It covers concepts to consider when designing including: a maintenance plan, local ecology, plant structure & silhouette, species longevity and how plants spread. It also has an interesting section on current trends in garden design. With garden book, I often read only part of the book and then look at the pictures. Not this time, I read it cover to cover and enjoyed the text as well as the great pictures.

this book is really well presented with graphics, charts to guide you through how to use his technique to plant gorgeous free form gardens and land scales. the photos are beautiful and the drawings are fun and make the science aspect very approachable for the lay person.

I bought it for my son who's a landscape architect. It was so startling to look at this plant palate - unusual yet beautiful. It's not always easy to give someone something in their given field. But, he loves, loves, loves it and is trying to incorporate this in some of the large spaces of his own yard. Beautifully photographed.

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