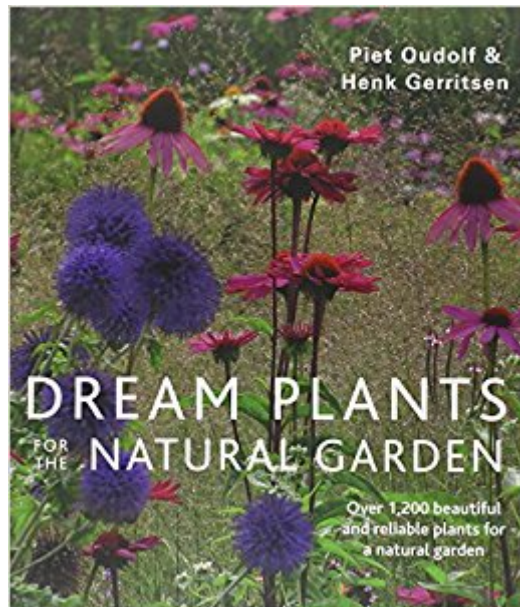


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# Dream Plants For The Natural Garden



## Synopsis

In this book, pioneering garden designers Henk Gerritsen and Piet Oudolf describe their special choice of ideal plants, perennials, bulbs, grasses, ferns and small shrubs. An ideal plant is one that is both beautiful and robust, performing reliably with very little input from the gardener. Complete growing information is provided for each plant along with advice on how to use it to best effect. Gerritsen and Oudolf have a genuinely innovative approach to gardening. Rather than striving for big, bold masses of colorful blooms that are vigorously pruned back as soon as they have finished flowering, the authors choose plants chiefly for their form - leaves, flower heads and stems included - which means they retain their natural beauty through all the seasons.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Frances Lincoln; PB Reissue edition (December 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0711234620

ISBN-13: 978-0711234628

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #337,437 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Flowers > Perennials](#) #107 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Ornamental Plants](#) #191 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Landscape](#)

## Customer Reviews

Gerritsen and Oudolf loosely define a "natural garden" as one that contains plants that need minimal maintenance, attract wildlife, and have a "natural appearance." More than 1000 such plants are covered in this encyclopedic guide. Because the authors are garden designers practicing in Northern Europe, the plants featured are mostly suitable to cold-winter, temperate climates with summer rainfall. For other regions, many of the plants covered are unsuitable horticulturally (requiring lots of care) and environmentally (extremely invasive and ecologically destructive). Moreover, the authors support the cautious use of invasive plants, so long as gardeners are vigilantly prepared to control their growth. This advice is clearly unsound, especially considering that plants with invasive characteristics can be serious threats to local habitats. For readers interested in

natural gardening, a much more regionally and environmentally appropriate resource is *Natural Gardening*, edited by John Kadel Boring (Time-Life, 1999). This book is not recommended. Brian Lym, City Coll. of San Francisco Lib. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Inquisitive gardeners will savor the engagingly wry tone and provocative opinions contained in this fine compendium. Based upon the long-banded-about idea of low-maintenance gardening, Gerritsen and Oudolf bring their own distinctive, aesthetic approach to the concept of choosing undemanding plants that also stand as beautiful garden specimens. Inspiring plantsmen, they remind gardeners that perfection is unattainable, so rather than "tarmac your garden," the wise soul learns to work with nature. Tough, playful, and troublesome are attributes that define this richly illustrated book's broad categories of hardy perennials, exuberant self-seeding species, and capricious types that might still be worthy of one's efforts. Taken together, a range of recommended plants holds the promise of bringing an exhilarating naturalism to a garden scheme. Alice Joyce  
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*Dream Plants: Over 1200 beautiful and reliable plants for a natural garden* is a beautiful well designed book intended to list plants that World Famous Garden Designers Piet Oudolf and Henk Gerritsen have found to be reliable in their gardens. The brief introduction and preface set the stage for a potpourri of plants from "tough perennials" to "playful" to "troublesome." There comes a list of 1200 plants that these two world famous garden designers have selected as useful, reliable, sturdy, and mostly low maintenance in the many gardens they have designed. The few words are a good read. The 250 plus pictures of flowers are marvelously beautiful and details. The descriptions give zone, sun/shade preference, height and width, comments and some useful growing hints. The index appears complete. With the organization of this book, you can start with your problem area find plants to fit in most cases. They do not cover wetlands, or trees or large shrubs. Recognizing that this book is intended for world wide audiences, the selections are at times a little strange, but their choices are well explained. Many of the plants are simple basic common. Many of the plants are unusual. In many cases the exact cultivar the authors used is listed with alternatives. Many of the plants we can only dream of as they are not in our zone or range. But the selections for even Zone 3 are plentiful and well done. Is this the end all book on plant selection? No! However, this is a very

useful, beautiful reference book with which to research plants you find in your local nurseries and stores and with to dream of gardens far away.. A local guide is still very necessary, whether a guide book, or a local plant expert. A good book to have in any gardener's library.

This is a beautiful and very well-organized, informative, and helpful tool for the home gardener and gardeners of public places, such as office gardens and public parks, who want to use lovely and reliable plants that are hardy, will not invade their neighbors, will not seed themselves so they become troublesome, and demand little attention. Piet Oudolf, a British horticulturalist and landscape architect, describes 1,200 plant species in three parts: Part 1 Tough perennials, grasses, ferns, bulbs, and ferns; Part 2 Playful self-seeding perennials, biennials and tender perennials, and annuals; and Part 3 Troublesome invasive, capricious, and demanding plants who fail the test. Detailed descriptions and information include growing conditions needed, and species that are most reliable.

I love this book. The pictures are beautiful and in color. There is a variety of plants and plant combinations with clear identification of each. I like the overall theme of planting with grasses and low maintenance with such a beautiful outcome. I love that the designs are planned out to have a year round appeal and even though some of the plants may not be available in the US, enough information has been given so that you can find a substitute. So much can be done if you learn the basics and this book does that.

Cannot wait to find and utilize some of the beautiful plants found in this book...full of inspiration and information.

Very good book, I love it. The pictures are beautiful and in color. I hope this book will help prepare me for my own garden.

Piet Oudolf is a champion landscaper that has lead landscaping into an exciting future for American gardens. I have accumulated several of his books.

Another must have to learn the dream plants by Piet Oudolf.

Marvellous book with excellent information and good photographs to go with it.

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