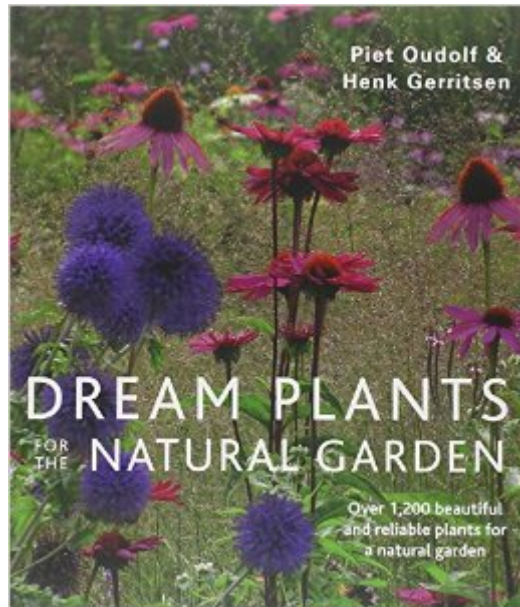


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# Dream Plants For The Natural Garden



## 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

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## Customer Reviews

The great global catastrophe that was World War I changed the world forever of course - empires, nations, monarchies and governments were swept away and nine million people were killed. And many important cultural artifacts were swept away forever as well, including the old-style, labor-intensive gardening of the 19th Century and the Victoria and Edwardian eras. Cheap labor was no longer to be had in the great homes of England and in their gardens, and so a new style of gardening necessarily took its place. It was more modest, less labor-dependent, more self-sustaining and natural. It actually had its beginnings in the latter part of the 19th Century, in the tapestry tradition of color blending that was the gardening style innovated by the Arts & Crafts movement. A century later, this design trend has taken another pronounced turn, this time also fed

by the cost of labor, a desire for smaller gardens, pressure on water supplies and a preference for gardening that is more sustainable and natural in appearance. At the center of this design revolution is Piet Oudolf and his longtime friend and collaborator Henk Gerritsen. Their “Dutch Wave” of “natural gardening” or the “New Perennial” movement as it is sometimes also called “ has transformed modern thinking about garden design, particularly in large and public spaces. The hallmarks of natural gardening are less reliance on flowers and more use of sculptural elements such as grasses and small shrubs, less structured planting areas, a greater use of xeric and native plants, as well as plants that are hardier and less fussy. It gives greater prominence to the whole plant and all its structures in all seasons, than to its floral expression at one brief moment of blooming glory.

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