

NOTES AND PICTURES:II,2

Notes on “The New Perennial Style”

Noel Kingsbury (on his blog: <http://noels-garden.blogspot.com>) describes an experiment from his Ph.D work at Sheffield University. He wanted to see if you could grow perennials in rough grass to create a “perennial meadow” where the grass was cut only once a year. “The problem is,” he found, “nearly all ornamental perennials have a dormant season, during which our native grasses. . . and pasture forbs. . . are growing. . . for 365 days a year.” Perennials are out-competed. “That is why you get . . . such fab wild-flower meadows in places with freezing where nothing can grow October/November to April.” Only a few perennials will survive and prosper but as much smaller versions than found in a normal border.

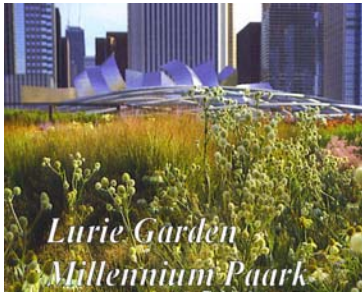
Oudolf’s own nursery and display gardens are at Nursery Oudolf, Broekstraat 17, Hummelo, Holland. There you will find, for example, large drifts of the grass *Sporobolus heterolepis* along with Pennisetum ‘Tall Tales’ growing just as they would in an American meadow. Echinacea is a “found” plant, but Oudolf uses new hybrids like ‘Orange Meadow Bright’ because of its sunset colors

The High Line above Gansevoort Street is a naturalistic park where meadow plants mingle with native trees and shrubs. Essentially a complex green-roof system above a waterproofing material laid on the existing concrete slab, it has 13 to 26” of growing material into which a mix of native and non-native perennials, trees and shrubs are planted. Pictures below.



Lurie Garden in Chicago’s Millennium Park is another example of prairie-style planting, using some of our favorite and familiar border perennials but also incorporating our recent native-plant-inspired desire to protect biodiversity as well as a model for sustainable and natural planting design. [Pictures next page!]

LURIE GARDEN, MILLENIUM PARK



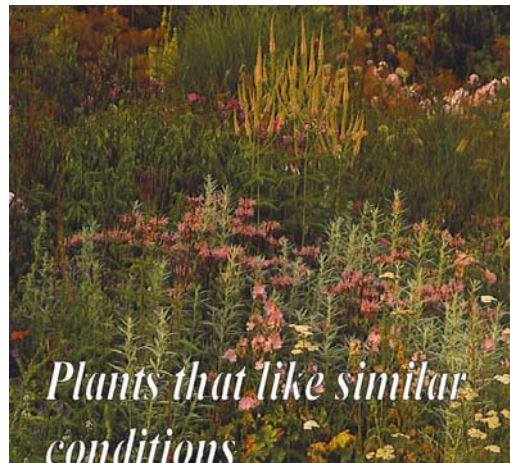
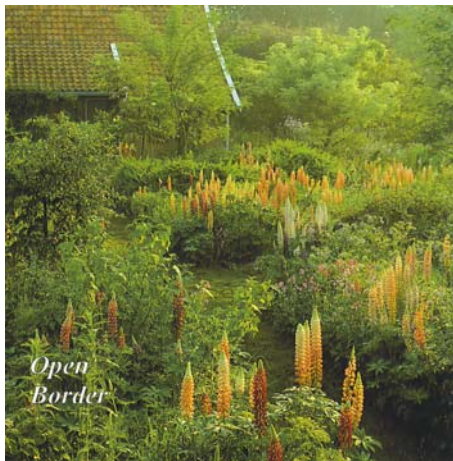
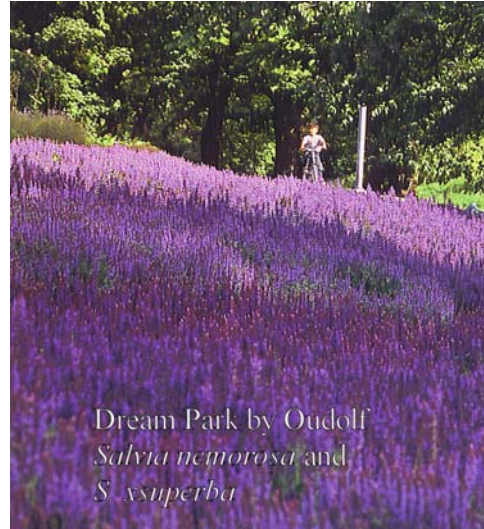
New York Botanical Garden: Oudolf and Jacqueline van der Kloet designed a seasonal walk to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s journey from Amsterdam to New York. It uses combinations of spring bulbs (daffodils, tulips, lilies) blended with bold plantings of sedum, Echinacea and various grasses

Battery Park: See The Battery Conservancy, Piet Oudolf Designer and their website: www.thebattery.org/gardens/piet.php. See especially the links to “Battery Plant Database,” “Gardens of Remembrance,” and “Battery Bosque.”



Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden: “The New American Garden Style.” Their firm, founded in 1977 champions “sustainable swaths of grasses and perennials,” influenced by both meadow and woodland. They are also committed to “naturalistic plantings,” have an “environmental sensitivity,” and use native plants and grasses which are “appropriate to their site.” In a typical Oehme and van Sweden garden, you will likely find waves of varying heights, textures, and colors of perennials, held together by “big layers” of grasses and sedges—not in groups of 3 or 4, but in groups of 50, 100, and 500 of a single species. Their usual perennials are: *Agastache*, *Pycnanthemum matricum*, *Senecio*, *Asarum*, *Nepeta*, *Geranium*, *Baptisia australis*, *Euphorbia salustris*, *Eupatorium purpureum ssp maculatum*, *Rudbeckia nitida*, *Persicaria amplexicaulis*. Their typical grasses include: *Pennisetum*, *Panicum virgatum*, *Calenagrostis*, *Carex*

Muskingumensis, *Hakonechloa macra*, *Tricyrtis japonica*. With their emphasis upon eco-sensitivity in sustainable garden design, they are certainly the American representatives of the New Perennial Movement.



Notes from the Potted Potager

Vegetables, herbs and flowers suitable for containers

Warm-season vegetables	bush or dwarf varieties
Bush beans; filet (haricots verts)	‘Straight’n Narrow’
Pole Beans	‘Golden Sunshine’
Cucumbers	‘Salad Bush’, ‘Iznick’
Eggplants	‘Bambino’, ‘Little Fingers’
Peppers, sweet	‘Jingle Bells’, ‘Golden Baby Belle’
Peppers, hot	‘Super Chile’, ‘Thai Hot’
Summer Squash	‘Eight Ball’
Tomatoes	‘Balcony’, ‘Gold Nugget’, ‘Tiny Tim’, ‘Tumbler’

Cool-season Vegetables

Asian Greens, Lettuce, Salad Greens, Chard, Snap Peas, Spinach, Radishes

Herbs

Chamomile (Roman), chervil, chives, cilantro (‘Delfino’ and ‘Santo’), Dill (fernleaf), fennel (bronze), garlic chives, lemongrass, lemon verbena, marjoram, mint (peppermint, spearmint, apple), Monarda (bee balm), Monarda citriodora (lemon mint), oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage, savory, stevia, tarragon, thyme, lemon thyme.

Edible Flowers

Borage, Chives, Daylilies, Lavender, Pot Marigolds (Calendula), Signet Marigolds (Tagetes signata), Nasturtiums, Pinks, Roses, Pansies, Sunflowers, Violas and Violets.

Bibliography

Barash, Cathy, Wilkinson ‘Edible Flowers: from Garden to Palate’

Huson, Paul ‘Mastering Herbalism’

Larkcom, Joy ‘Oriental Vegetables: The Complete Guide for the Gardening Cook’

McGee and Stuckey ‘The Bountiful Container’

Rodales Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs

Sources for Seeds and Plants

Nichols Garden Nursery nicholsgardennursery.com

Park Seed Company www.parkseed.com

Renee’s Garden www.reneesgarden.com

Seeds of Change www.seedsofchange.com

The Cooks Garden www.cooksgarden.com