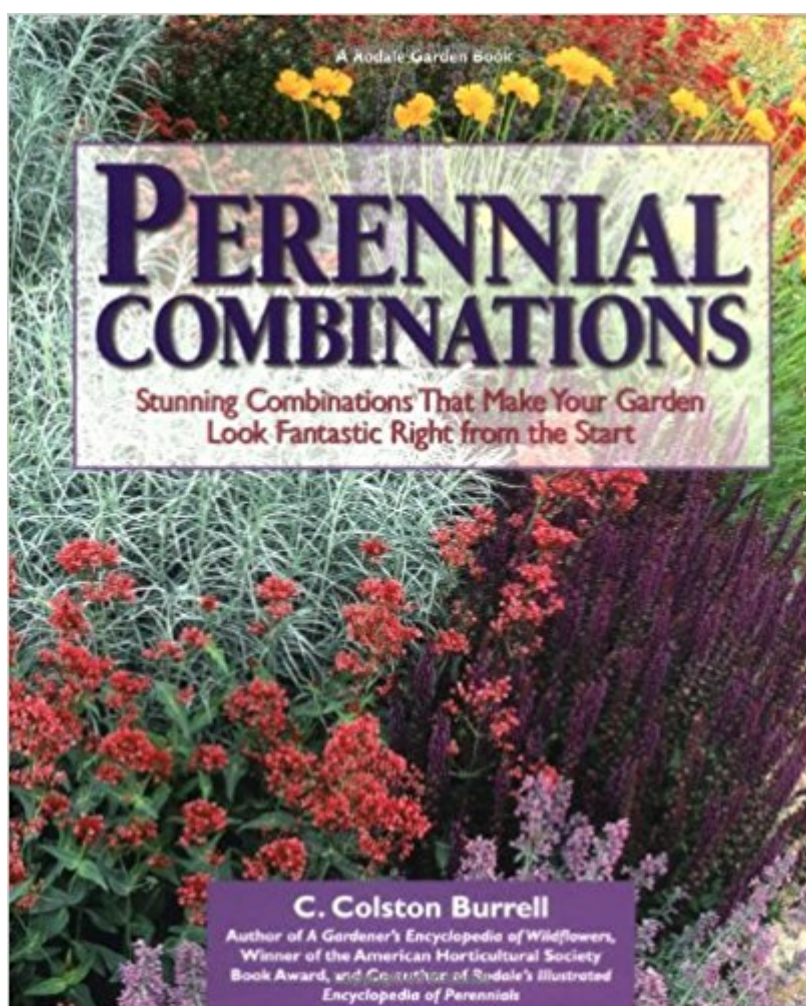


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Perennial Combinations: Stunning Combinations That Make Your Garden Look Fantastic Right From The Start



Synopsis

Perennial combinations are the building blocks of beautiful, successful gardens. Choosing perennials that look great and grow well together is a skill that can take years to develop, but with this book, you're guaranteed to make perfect plant choices right from the start. In *Perennial Combinations*, expert plantsman, C. Colston Burrell hand-selects 120 of the best perennial combinations for homeowners, then offers his expert advice on how to grow and use the combinations to create great gardens. Each combination is featured in a stunning color photograph accompanied by a numbered photo key and plant list, so it's easy to find and buy exactly the right plants to re-create the combination in your own garden. Each combination features just two to six plants, so they're perfect for even the smallest garden space. You can plant each combination just as it appears in the book, or for a bigger color splash, just repeat the combination or mix it with others that are suited to the same conditions. You'll find combinations for stunning bloom from spring through fall; combinations especially suited to challenging sites like heavy clay soil or seaside gardens; and combinations just for fun, like fragrant combinations and combinations that attract butterflies. C. Colston Burrell has lived and gardened in different climates across America, so he's made sure this book is useful to gardeners from California to Maine. He's also a professional garden designer, and he's applied his talents to create 22 original garden designs that feature the book's individual combinations. Plus every page includes his personal gardening wisdom, so you'll not only know which perennials to plant together, you'll know how to maintain those perennials so your garden will look beautiful year after year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“People like me, who roam their gardens with a trowel in one hand and a plant in the other, looking for any empty dirt in which to plant need this book. Ideas for color combinations as well as combinations of form, texture, and habit can help even us color-challenged gardeners have great-looking gardens. Different seasons, different environments, and different plant mixes are blended sensibly and artistically under Colston Burrell’s artistry. A terrific read!”

— Allan Armitage, professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia and author of *Herbaceous Perennial Plants and Specialty Cut Flowers*

“Talk about a great combination! Cole Burrell’s brilliant design talent blends with his extensive experience as a gardener and a plantsman to make this book both visually dynamic and enormously informative. Not only are there numerous ideas for inspiring design combinations, but practical tips on soil, light, and maintenance requirements for the plants abound. This book should help every gardener-- from the beginner to the professional-- design gardens that look as good in the landscape as they do on paper.”

— Tracy DiSabato-Aust, author of *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*

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About the Author C. Colston Burrell is the author of *A Gardener's Encyclopedia of Wildflowers*, which won the American Horticultural Society notable books of the year award for 1998. He is also the co-author of *Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Perennials*, *Successful Organic Gardening: Perennials*, and *Successful Organic Gardening: Landscaping with Perennials*. He is a garden designer, writer, photographer, and the owner of *Native Landscape Design and Restoration*, which is located near Charlottesville, Virginia.

This is a great book for the gardener new to design. It presents a fairly simple scheme for creating a flower bed that will have perennials blooming throughout the growing season. For someone wanting to create a new bed or who has just purchased a newly-built home with nothing but minimal landscaping, this book would help in planning a more colorful landscape. However, I do think that adding a chapter on incorporating perennials and shrubs would have enhanced the book as so many situations call for them. For instance, foundation beds with nothing but perennials would mostly be bare during the winter; shrubs, particularly evergreens, would give additional structure. Otherwise, this is a great place to start in planning a design with its simple to follow, well thought-out steps.

If you've ever drooled over perfectly arranged landscapes designed with fabulous color combinations, texture, and an array of plants all sizes and shapes whose colors are pleasing to the eye, this book is your tool. There are many garden companies that offer pre-designed gardens, but they're expensive and sometimes have plants that you just don't care for. This book gives you ideas, plans, tips on how to combine plants in such a way that it looks like a professional landscaper came and did all the work. Every design is wonderful, the photography is superb and the gardens are beautiful. A real asset for anyone who wants to have a beautiful garden without paying a designer/landscaper to do it for you. A great book.

I'm a novice when it comes to flower gardens. This book is so helpful for planning. I moved and now have a mostly shaded (in the summer) area that invites perennial planting. Thank you, Colston Burrell.

Nice photos show interesting combinations

Great color palette choices here.

As a serious new gardener I have been buying tons of gardening books to help me get started and to educate myself. I had no idea, when I purchased this book, that it would become my favorite! I took it on vacation and read it cover to cover, twice. It provides expert information on perennials, and nudges individual creativity with its stunning photos and drawings of beautiful combinations. I have already put in three of Mr. Burrell's garden plans - with some adjustment for personal favorites and have been extremely pleased with the results! I am giving this book as a Christmas gift this year to several gardening friends and would highly recommend it for all gardeners, beginners to master!

To say stunning combinations is a vast under-statement if ever there were one. This book provides color combination from subtle to bold for all locations in the garden. The only end of possibilities is your own imagination!

One of the drawbacks of buying gardening books online is that you can't see the photos. If I had thumbed through this book in a bookstore I don't know if I would have purchased it. Not that it doesn't have a lot of good information and ideas, but the photos could be better: the color is garish and over-saturated and the images actually look blurry. Also, many of the plant combo photos are very close up, which doesn't help when you are trying to figure out how to place your perennials when planting. For me, a good gardening book has to not only give useful information and how-tos (which this book does for the most part), but it has to inspire with lovely photos! And that is where this book disappoints. I do like the illustrations of various combinations. Addendum: Four years later, I find that I still look through this book every spring for inspiration and ideas. So overall I'd say a good addition to one's gardening library!

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