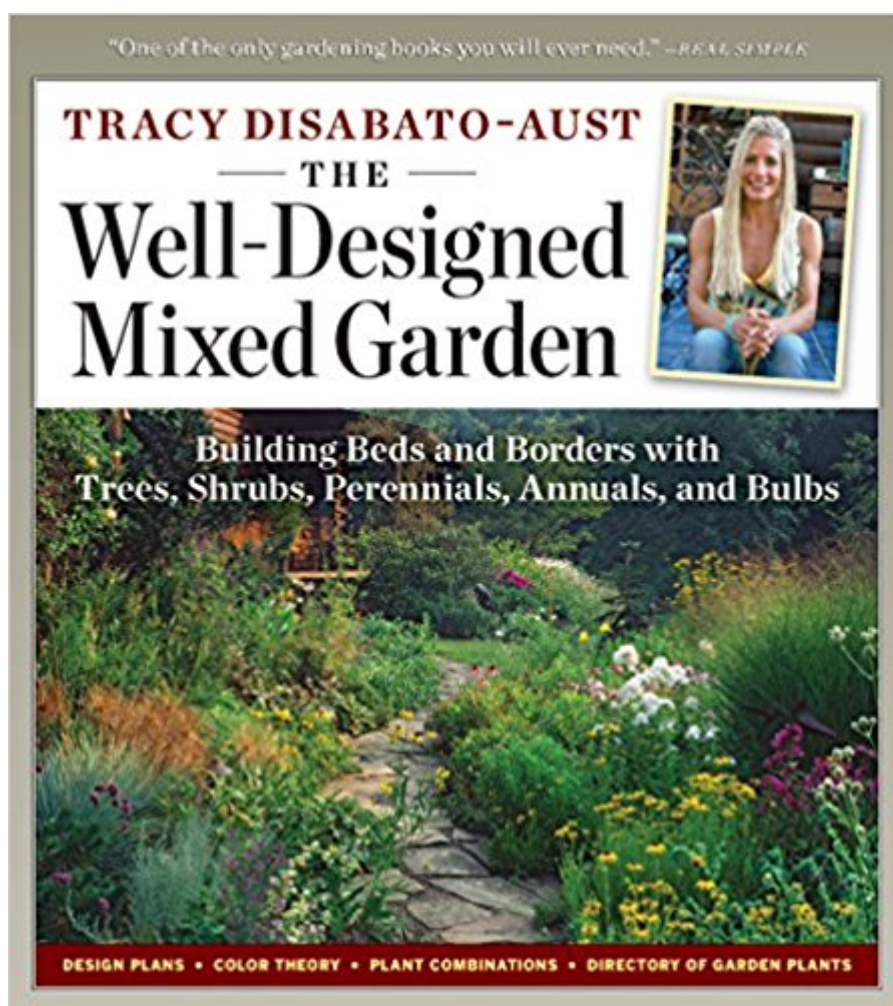


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# The Well-Designed Mixed Garden: Building Beds And Borders With Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals, And Bulbs



## Synopsis

The Well-Designed Mixed Garden is a design book with a difference. Written for gardeners who are passionate about plants of all kinds, it reflects decades of professional experience and artistic innovation. Tracy DiSabato-Aust provides not only inspiration but also scrupulously organized information on design and connoisseur plants. A gallery of detailed design plans is included, as is an encyclopedia of plant combinations with notes on design considerations and tips on how to keep the combinations looking their best. The result is a nearly foolproof guide to every aspect of designing superior gardens with superior plants. With more than 250 color photos and illustrations, this paperback edition of a design classic is as much a feast for the eyes as it will be a trusted reference for the library shelf.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tracy DiSabato-Aust's Well-Designed Mixed Garden provides sound direction for plant lovers looking to free their garden from the doldrums and fashion a rich tapestry of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vines, grasses, and bulbs. Encyclopedic in scope yet unfailingly attentive to essential details, The Well-Designed Mixed Garden effectively summarizes an array of basic garden design considerations and fundamentals. There are particularly useful chapters on color theory and on drawing up a plan, with precise instructions on what size plants to purchase and how to space them. As with her highly regarded Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting & Pruning Techniques, DiSabato-Aust delves eagerly into plant maintenance, a topic too many garden writers overlook.

Though many examples are from the author's own garden or other American Midwest locations, they're largely applicable to other plant hardiness zones. Of particular appeal are a nicely photographed section on attractive plant combinations and a series of handy appendixes for plant selection. Beginners may be overwhelmed by this book's wealth of information, but its comprehensiveness renders it all the more valuable for seasoned gardeners seeking greater practical know-how and a surer grasp of the art of gardening. --Jennifer Wyatt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this eagerly awaited sequel to her best-seller, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* (1998), DiSabato-Aust brings her trademark exuberance, expertise, and efficiency to bear on frequently daunting elements of garden design, demystifying them with her direct approach and encouraging gardeners with her infectious enthusiasm. A patient instructor with a keen sense of the essential, DiSabato-Aust explores areas other authors often ignore, going in-depth on topics such as color, for example, to clarify the differences between "hue" and "value" and demonstrate how intensity of light can affect the way in which flowers are perceived. Examples abound: winning plant combinations are photographed, illustrated, and then deconstructed in an encyclopedic compilation of 27 sample designs that explains why the groupings work and how they can be achieved. DiSabato-Aust conscientiously provides the tools required to transform theory into reality as she walks readers through the actual process of putting plans on paper, spacing plants, and estimating supplies. Painstakingly researched and precisely organized comprehensive appendixes concisely chart cultural characteristics and design attributes in this admirably inspirational, abundantly informative, and absolutely indispensable guide to great garden design. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I liked this a lot, as we've got a large yard and needed some great plants to fill in some blank places! This book is full of GREAT ideas!!!

A very extensive book on names of plants which is very helpful, but not my taste on limiting garden color.

I have always put trees, bushes, flowers, etc. in my yard that I liked wherever they might fit which met their sun, pH, and soil moisture requirements. Years later I'd wonder why my garden beds

never looked tidy. This is the information I didn't have, but needed. It will take a very long time to fix the poor choices I've made. Perhaps that haphazard look isn't so bad...

I've heard other gardeners talk about Tracy's books and what an inspiration they are, so I bought "The Well-Designed Mixed Garden" expecting to learn some GREAT ideas for my gardens. It has some good information on principles of design and how to work with color, texture, and so on. But I was disappointed at how weak and uninspiring the section is on plant combinations. She calls it an "encyclopedia of plant combinations," and the section is full of photos of flowers and plants she thinks are winning combinations. The combinations mostly have no real visual appeal, the photos (in that section) are plain, and it's a wasted section of the book. I think there was only one of these combinations that actually looked beautiful. Most of these photos were from her own garden, and perhaps she let her personal affection for her own gardens cloud her judgment on what to include. I like the rest of the book, however, and her examples of garden designs in other parts of the book have good photos and design layout drawings that are quite useful.

Ever read a garden book and feel like it contains tons of recycled information - like one of those notorious fruitcakes that goes from home to home every Christmas? This time around, the author dares to express some rather unique, even radical, viewpoints about garden design and color combinations. If you're a traditionalist, you might be a bit intimidated by some of the suggestions but this is an opportunity to let your gardening creativity take root (pun intended). Perhaps you'll discover, as I did, that certain plants just "click" together, even though their colors seem unharmonious at first glance. If you follow DiSabato-Aust's guideline, you may well have the most beautiful garden on the block and find yourself falling in love with your yard again. There are lists of plants, suggested placement in relation to other plants and plenty of information about growing requirements. But it is the originality of this one that sets it apart. Beginner or expert gardener, you'll glean tons of valuable info!

Being new to perennial gardening I have bought many magazines and books on perennials but found that Tracy's book *The Well Tended Perennial Garden* and *The Well Designed Mixed Garden* have saved me!! My love for perennials have grown stronger after reading her book's! I have only been working on my gardens for about 4 years and they continue to get bigger each year but now with Tracy's books I have lost a lot less plants and my garden looks better than ever!!

I like Tracy DiSabato-Aust and her style of presentation. Lots of good info for the gardener on plant materials, how to plan beds, etc. Resource "encyclopedia" sections are nicely presented.

This book was a resource and idea stimulating thoughts resource for me.

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