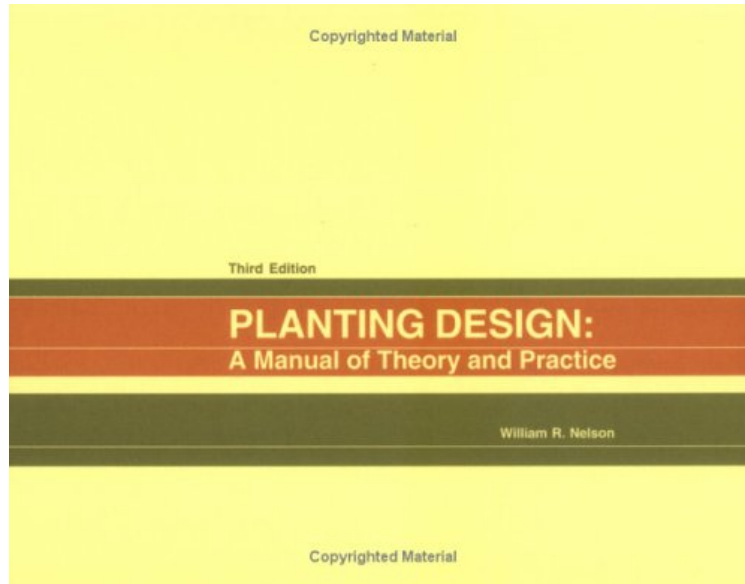


# Planting Design: A Manual Of Theory And Practice

William R. Nelson

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#2118426 in Books 2004-09-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x 10.75 x .75l, 2.15 #File Name: 1588743586315 pages | File size: 42.Mb

**William R. Nelson : Planting Design: A Manual Of Theory And Practice** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Planting Design: A Manual Of Theory And Practice:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Good Book If...By BBlairActually, I would give this book 3 1/2 stars, if that rating had been available. The reason this book did not receive a higher rating is that it has proved somewhat disappointing for me as a homeowner, even though I did "look inside" before I purchased it.As a textbook, which one could argue is its basic purpose, "Planting Design" is quite good. The author covers the basic aspects of landscape design (line, form, texture, color, repetition, etc.) in a focused but understandable manner. The progression of the text is logical, with concepts and chapters methodically building on previous exposition. Many of the basic premises of designing a landscape that other books or forums assume you already know or only briefly refer to are knowledgeably explained. Clearly the author has an excellent grasp of his subject.The drawback for the homeowner or novice reader looking for an introduction to this subject is that a textbook works best in a class with a teacher to explain, integrate, and illustrate key aspects. Without this, "Planting Design" can be challenging to read and comprehend in spots.The biggest disappointment for me in this respect is that the pictures are sparse, mediocre in quality, and in black and white. In one glaring example, the author is discussing texture and color, which is illustrated with a poorly exposed black and white photo. I had to use an online landscaping course in order to find the requisite color photos that illustrated many of the points the author was trying to make.Similarly, the author seems to take for granted that the reader already has some knowledge of the field. For example, in one table labeled "Textural Impressions" the author uses the abbreviations M, C, and F (which I assume is Medium, Coarse, and Fine) without any reference to what these abbreviations referred to.The reader should also be aware that approximately half the book is given over to "Plant Classifications on the Basis of Design Qualities and Cultural Requirements." In other word, a plant such as Daphne is described in terms of size, USDA zone, form, foliage color, texture, form, features, and comments. I can see where this kind of manual or appendix could prove valuable to the designer or to certain

gardeners, but I was somewhat disappointed that so much of the book had been given over to this area. Overall, I would still recommend this book and I am learning a great deal. However, it is not for everyone. I wrote this review mainly to inform others whose needs may or may not match with what this book had to offer and to help them to avoid any unpleasant surprises. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Required reading

By Seth W. Hudson  
WOW!!! This should be required reading for every Landscape Design and Landscape Architecture academy as necessary to earn one's diploma or degree. I've read many books on the subject, but have not found one that covers planting design so thoroughly. "Residential Landscape Architecture - Design Process for the Private Residence, 5th Edition" by James E. Hiss and Norman K. Booth, and "Professional Planting Design - An Architectural and Horticultural Approach for Creating Mixed Bed Plantings" by Simon Scarfone along with Rosemary Alexander's "The Essential Garden Design Workbook, 2nd Edition" should probably be read before this one, so you have some familiarity with what "F", "MF", "C", "MC" stand for in the section on foliage texture, (that is, if you really wish to enrich your understanding of Planting Design). Buy this book, read it, apply it, and your entire perception of plants will be changed drastically and so will your designs - for the better!! Happy reading!!  
Seth Hudson, Landscape Designer  
Grow Green Horticultural Concepts, LLC  
3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. one of my favorite  
By Aleksandr I'm landscape design teacher. I've been looking for the books about planting design for my students. There were few I had found. This one is golden. Very useful both for me and my students

This book is intended as a text for students and a resource manual for designers and landscape architects. The tabular listing of woody plants has proved to be a valuable reference for students and experienced designers. This plant listing focuses on the design qualities that are important to the designer. In addition, the list includes a brief description of the type of landscape composition that best suits each individual plant. The listing of herbaceous plants, by contrast, presents the flower color, season of bloom, and height and spread for each perennial. This allows the designer to quickly identify the perennials that produce the color needed, that flower in the season needed, and that provide the needed height and spread for the design being developed.