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Five-Plant Gardens: 52 Ways To Grow A Perennial Garden With Just Five Plants



Synopsis

With literally hundreds of choices, it can be overwhelming to decide which perennials to plant in your garden. Nancy J. Ondra takes the stressful guesswork out of perennial garden planning by offering 52 vibrant designs, each made up of only five plants. Ondra tailors each simple design to a specific set of growing conditions, with plenty of tips to help your planting mature. Enjoy gardens full of sun-drenched blooming flowers and shade-loving greenery for years to come. [View more](#)

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Customer Reviews

“Ondra cuts through the confusion that would otherwise attend the process of creating a border or bed, including tips for creating a garden for a particular season or color scheme. She helps the gardener with a simple key: planting a magic five plants for a variety of beds. Her guidelines reflect her skill as an accomplished horticulturist. Other highlights include the color photography of Rob Cardillo and a generous supply of design plans. The reader will benefit from this gardener’s eye and her sharing of knowledge. More to the point, the resulting garden will be so simple yet sophisticated that it will look easy.”

Beautiful Perennial Gardens Have Never Been Easier Take the guesswork out of designing and planting perennial beds with Nancy Ondra’s plans for 52 gardens, each one featuring just five perennials that grow well together and combine for stunning visual effect. Whether you choose the cool elegance of Stunning in Silver, the cheery colors of Summer Spectacular, or the classic

appeal of Cottage Charm, each design includes everything you need to succeed. Illustrated garden plans, complete with your plant shopping list Season-by-season growing highlights and care tips Notes on siting or expanding each garden and choosing alternative plants.

The cover of the book says, *52 Ways to Grow a Perennial Garden with Just Five Plants*. She uses basically the same 5 plants or variations of the same 5 plants for different garden types. Which I found disappointing. I was hoping for more selections of 5 plants. Her garden designs are very clear and easy to follow though. The author has *Five Plant Gardens for Full Sun to Partial Shade*, like *Think Pink*, *Red All Over*, *Vision in Blue*, *Wet and Wild*, just to name a few. The opposite *Five Plant Gardens for Partial Shade to Full Sun*, like *Just White for Shade*, *Pretty Pastels*, *Spring into Action*. Though I was disappointed in not having more plant variety, I would probably purchase this again, just for the garden design plans.

I borrowed this from the library, then had to order my own copy. This is perfect for novices like me. I loved to work in the garden, but didn't grow up with parents who did, so it is a struggle for me to get it right. This makes it easy!

The book concept is excellent. The drawings for the beds are a really good idea. But I found the plants sort of boring, wispy, and uninspired. Perhaps they are not when they are planted, but with no photos of the beds, it was really difficult to imagine the specimens on the page in real life. Not a dramatic perennial book, but probably good for a gentler, watercolor gardener.

I like the simplicity of the concept, but for professionals, it's a tad underwhelming. Perhaps the best audience would be people who would love to dabble in gardening but don't have much time or plant knowledge - and possibly a limited budget. For more in-depth information, I suggest Roy Diblik's books on "know-maintenance" gardening.

This really impressive, easy to read and understand book is beautiful to the eye but the author has also done a lot of work for the reader/gardener. And it just gets better! Nancy J. Ondra gives tons alternative plants to the five-plant garden promise made on the cover. This book is invaluable. My yard is starting to look like I know what I'm doing, instead of the "jelly-bean" look I've always tended toward.

The organization of the designs, the graphics, and the descriptions of the plants as well as their care through the seasons makes the book like having a personal garden architect!

Heard the author on our local gardening show and was interested in this book because of the interview. It is a very informative book with many, many options on how to create a number of garden types with just five plants. I think this will be very useful for many years to come.

Great resource for the gardener, like me, who wants things to look nice but doesn't want to spend every hour of the day in the garden. Plant with perennials and follow one of her plans and you get the idea how it all comes together.

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