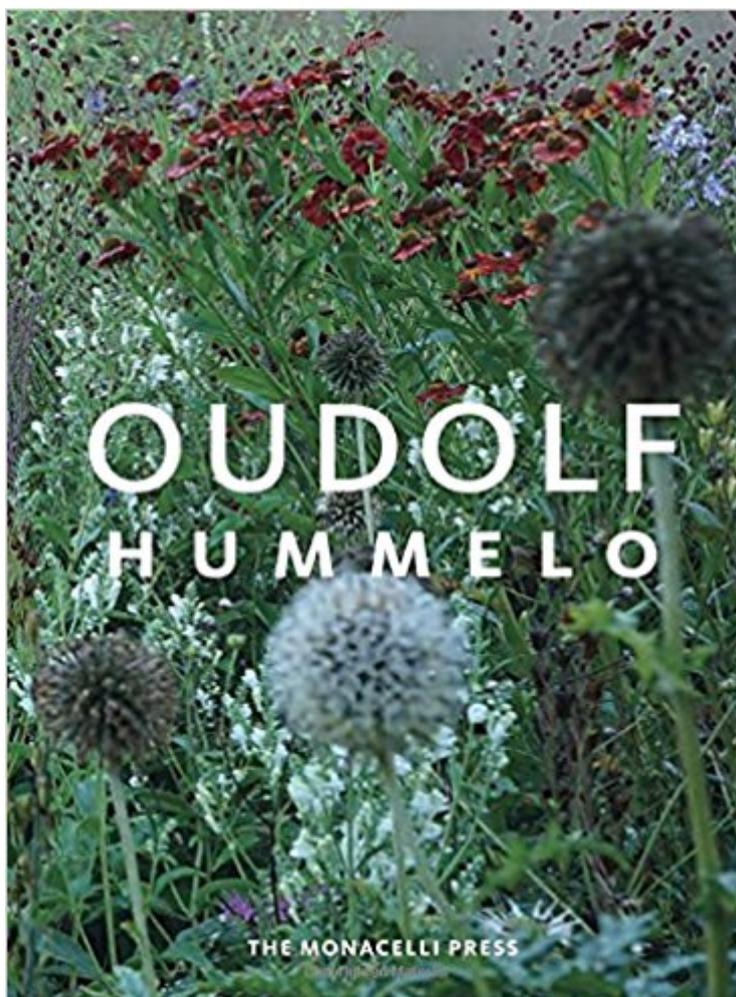


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# Hummelo: A Journey Through A Plantsman's Life



## Synopsis

An intimate look at the personal garden of the Dutch landscape designer renowned for his plantings at the High Line in New York City, and Lurie Garden at Chicago's Millennium Park. Hummelo is near the village of the same name in Gelderland in the eastern Netherlands. It is Piet Oudolf's home, his personal garden laboratory, a former nursery run by his wife Anja, and the place where he first tested new designs and created the new varieties of perennials that are now widely available. A follow-up to Oudolf's successful *Landscapes in Landscapes*, Hummelo tells the story of how the garden has evolved over the past three decades since Oudolf, Anja, and their two young sons moved onto the property, with its loamy sand and derelict, wood stove-heated farmhouse, in 1982. Text by noted garden author and longtime personal friend Noel Kingsbury places Hummelo in context within gardening history, from the Netherlands' counterculture and nascent green movement of the 1960s, to prairie restoration in the American Midwest, and shows how its development has mirrored that of Oudolf's own outstanding career and unique naturalistic aesthetic. Oudolf has long been at the forefront of the Dutch Wave and New Perennial Style movements in garden design, which have ecological considerations at their base. His work stresses a deep knowledge of plants, eschewing short-lived annuals in favor of perennials that can be appreciated for both structure and blooms in every season. He is credited for leading the way to today's focus on sustainability in garden design. The book will appeal to readers who favor beautiful, biodiverse, and ever-changing plantings: seed heads, grasses, sedges, and winter silhouettes. They will be drawn into its pages by lush photography, often demonstrating how Oudolf views his own work, and providing rare glimpses into his daily life. Short essays highlight important techniques, including scatter plants and matrix planting, and introduce other famed landscape designers like Karl Foerster, Henk Gerritsen, Rob Leopold, Ernst Pagels, and Mien Ruys to create a full panorama of the movement Oudolf now leads.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 400 pages

Publisher: The Monacelli Press (May 5, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580934188

ISBN-13: 978-1580934183

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 1.7 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #693,914 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Flowers > Perennials](#) #119 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Netherlands > General](#) #217 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Ornamental Plants](#)

## Customer Reviews

A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year “To mark his 70th birthday, Piet Oudolf, the Dutch prince of a new, highly artistic style of planting, produced a handsome, lavishly photographed book, HUMMELO: A Journey Through a Plantsman’s Life, a gift to all serious lovers of garden design. His farmhouse in Hummelo, a village in the eastern Netherlands, was the modest beginning of a nursery that eventually drew customers from around the world. Written by his frequent collaborator, Noel Kingsbury they also worked together on the indispensable *Planting: A New Perspective* Hummelo isn’t a biography, but it does explain how the man who devised New York City’s Battery and High Line gardens and Chicago’s Lurie Garden did ‘so much to raise the profile of landscape designers as a group.’ It also sketches a fascinating history of modern Dutch gardening, largely unknown in the United States. If we truly want to heal the land, this important work is a model. And, in their adventurous, arresting, multilayered density, Oudolf’s compositions are stunningly beautiful.”

• The New York Times Book Review “Written to commemorate Piet Oudolf’s 70th birthday, *Hummelo: A Journey Through a Plantsman’s Life* recounts his path from a small-garden designer in the Netherlands to a world-renowned plantsman, best known for his breathtaking perennial landscapes. But it is not a biography, stresses the author, Noel Kingsbury. It is a story of the evolution of Oudolf’s work, beginning with his garden near the village of Hummelo, and tracing the fluctuating design processes that Oudolf himself believes should be dismantled once learned. The book is organized chronologically, opening with Oudolf’s move from Haarlem, near Amsterdam, to a plot just outside Hummelo, where Oudolf settled with his family for “growing space” and eventually a nursery for the perennial material that wasn’t readily available in the area. It then follows his growing success in Europe before his break in the United States with Chicago’s Lurie Garden

and eventually the High Line in New York City. Accompanying Kingsbury's text are many photographs taken at differing scales, seasons, and stages of completion, highlighting the level of detail Oudolf invests in his landscapes. In addition to photographs, the book features noteworthy practices of Oudolf's, including planting arrangements and techniques, which are broken down into clear explanations of their historical context and development. While his planting designs have evolved over the 30-some years covered in *Hummelo*, a glance at any page reveals the beauty and composition that are recognizably Oudolf's.

**Landscape Architecture**

"To celebrate the 70th birthday of Dutch plantsman Piet Oudolf whose romantic drifts of painterly grasses and perennials have made him the most copied landscape designer alive. The Monacelli Press is publishing a new book about his private garden. When garden designer Oudolf and his wife Anja moved with their two young sons to an eastern Netherlands farmhouse on a one-acre plot in 1982, there was no garden and no nursery where he could grow plants for his business. 'We had money to survive one year,' remembers Oudolf. 'And at first we had no clients.' And no heat in the house except a wood stove. In *Hummelo*, British garden writer Noel Kingsbury tells the story of how Oudolf and his wife managed, with hard work and her cut-flower business, to gradually create a garden that embodied the ideas of today's New Perennials movement. Along the way, *Hummelo* became so famous in its own right that the Oudolfs might wake up on any given day to find strangers tromping about (after the garden's much-photographed yew hedges died in 2010, some tourists from Brussels were so shocked and disappointed that without another word 'they got in their car and drove away,' Oudolf says). **Gardenista** "Illuminates the garden philosophy which led to the seemingly wild, native-plants-style creation of meadows and flowering plants which have riveted us all. The pictures, most of them by Oudolf, are evocative. **Women's Wear Daily** "HUMMELO, is something of a biography, or as close to one as Oudolf would allow. Despite being such a well-known figure in the garden world, he is a self-contained fellow. Bringing the story back to this plot of land, reflecting the evolution and changes in both Oudolf's life and career, reinforces just how much he is a true plantsman, someone who delights in the variations and possibilities of propagating and growing. **Kaufmann Mercantile's** "Field Notes

Piet Oudolf is an influential Dutch garden and landscape designer at the forefront of the New Perennial movement and the author of numerous books on gardening and landscape design. He

has constructed dozens of residential, commercial and institutional gardens and his projects can be found throughout The Netherlands, England, Ireland, Germany, Sweden and the U.S. — including the celebrated High Line and Battery Park in New York City, Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in Chicago, and temporary installations for the Venice Biennale and the Serpentine Gallery pavilion. He is the recipient of the Gold Medal and title of Best in Show at the Chelsea Flower Show (2000), the Gold Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society (2002) and the Award of Distinction from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers in 2010. He was awarded the highest cultural honor in The Netherlands, the Prince Bernhard Culture prize, in 2013. — Noel Kingsbury is an internationally acclaimed garden writer and the author of more than 20 books (including several with Oudolf), as well as a teacher, lecturer, and garden designer. He is a regular contributor to The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, The Garden, and Hortus, among other publications.

Is this the new format for books! The size is a delight 17.5 x 23.6mm (6.9 x 9.3 inches) easy to handle in your bed or in a chair. The print is the best available, however, when we come to the photos (and there is a mightily lot of them) they are not glossy, but printed on the print paper which appears a new idea! Do I like it - no. Also many photos do not have a caption as to what the plants that dominate the photo are, it is left to the readers imagination. The hard cover without a dust cover is becoming the new norm, and I did like this. I notice the 400 page book is printed in Slovenia. The cost of this book and the poor printed photos leaves a lot to ponder. The story of the Oudolf's is easy to read and holds the readers attention on each page. Also on special pages, notable gardeners are given a good run down of their achievements which is most welcome. I enjoyed the read, but need nicer photos, especially today with the digital cameras and the reproduction available.

Nice enough. Piet Oudolf's contributions to landscape/garden planting are considerable. The book is not ideally bound being stiff and the color photos are of a lower quality than ideal. Well written though.

The book is back to front the front covers are printed upside down. Not ok I'm really disappointed.

A must read for any garden and nature lover. Hummelo takes you through the planting history of Piet Oudolf. Outstanding!

A most interesting journey through the evolution of natural garden design well beyond Humelo ! Well written and most informative,

Master of revolutionary landscape design!

Excellent book documenting the professional life and history of Piet Oudolf, probably the most influential garden and plant designer alive today, his work is world renown and it is pretty clear from reading this book why. His personal approach to garden architecture is impressive and deep, this provides the backstory to his public identity. I would like to have had better photographs and many more and it would have been useful to have more garden diagrams, but that is a minor shortcoming. A good read and for a gardener a must read....

a detailed account of Oudolf's gardens and his life; try his other books if you want more detailed info about his garden designs

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