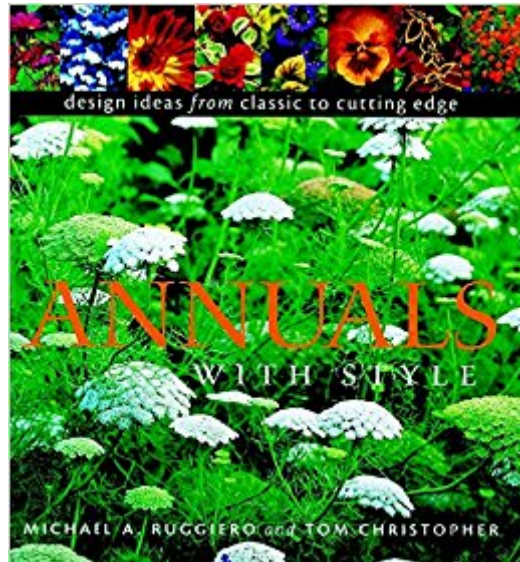




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Annuals With Style



Synopsis

This is the only guide to annuals a gardener needs. It delivers professional growing hints for more than 70 essential annuals, design ideas for beds, borders and containers, and gardener-friendly advice on creating an inspiring home garden with individual style.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A few years ago, when perennials were the buzz, we would have laughed at the idea of annuals being described as "cutting edge." Annuals were tacky purple petunias or globs of geraniums; maybe your Grandma liked annuals, but they weren't for modern gardens. Now annuals are so hot they sizzle. Horticulturists introduce new colors and exciting forms so fast we grow dizzy. Old, forgotten types of annuals are being reintroduced, and many of these are noteworthy for their statuesque shapes or spectacular perfume. *Annuals with Style* explores this newly fashionable world of gardening with annuals, where innovation in flower and foliage keeps pace with ideas about style. One of the greatest things about annuals is that they grow to maturity and die in one gardening season, so they are fun to play around with. A tree is a big investment of money and space, and shrubs grow for years, but annuals require no such commitment of time, room, or resources. You can experiment, experience near-instant gratification, toss them out at the end of the season, and try something new next year. Mike Ruggiero and Thomas Christopher capture the essence of garden creativity as they advise on how best to use the many kinds of annuals now widely available. Have you seen the new variegated impatiens? How about coleus leaves so boldly

splashed with color that they look as though variegation was invented just for them? Scale, texture, form, and color are all considered when using annuals in pots, hanging baskets, or in the ground. Practicalities such as starting from seed, soil preparation, mulching, watering, pinching, and fertilizing are thoroughly discussed and an encyclopedia of essential annuals provides the basics as well as plentiful color photographs. --Valerie Easton

The New York Botanical Garden's Ruggiero and author Christopher (The 20-Minute Gardener) team up to illustrate the versatility, ease and rewards of using annuals in the garden. From such old standbys as pansies and petunias to more flamboyantly tropical options such as Caladium and Amaranthus, the authors discuss various annual plantings--in mixed plantings, in containers, as quick-growing vertical accents, as "plugs" to fill in gaps where more short-lived perennials have bloomed and faded or as "featured players." The snappy prose is alight with humor (on scaling down the showy Victorian carpet bed for today's staff-less home gardens, for instance, the authors note "think prayer rug rather than wall to wall"). While they are both clearly knowledgeable plantsmen, the authors take equal delight in focusing on more lighthearted displays ("We've seen a dozen football helmets upended, filled with potting mix, and hung in a row to make an annual garden in Texas") as they do on elegant mixed borders. The reader-friendly layout includes helpful sidebars and glorious photos. This book is ideal for beginners, yet seasoned gardeners should enjoy the fresh spin on an often overlooked subject. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is not just about annuals, though it is definitely the best book about annuals. There are so many great design ideas in this book, including using annuals in a "mixed border," (perennial garden). There is an excellent section on container gardening with lots of professional tips. Some of the topics are just excellent: "using color," "harmony and contrast," "color and variegated foliage," etc. This is the only book I have read that deals with design issues in such a clear and creative way. Anyone can make a beautiful garden after reading these great design tips. The section on propagation is also excellent. Growing from seed and making cuttings are covered in every detail with great step by step pictures. There is also a step by step formula to determine how many plants you need for an area. The last section of the book is an alphabetical listing of each annual, listing its use, culture, and professional tips. You will find out the best and newest varieties here. The writing is filled with the enthusiasm of these authors. There is so much good information in this book, I wish every gardener would read it, including the people who think they just like perennials!

Super book with everything you need to know. Arrived on time, so I would buy again from this seller. It is filled with how to's, design ideas, lots of nice pictures and is very helpful. I am giving this to a new bride who is moving into a house with a new yard, so this book will be useful to them. This book is worth buying and adding to your library.

Very good book if you are serious about gardening. Use it in my horticulture class and help me get good grades.

There are literally hundreds of books on various types of plants (perennials, annuals, trees, ...), not to mention an endless array of books on garden design. So, how does one begin to differentiate the great ones from the okay ones? One of my litmus tests for a really great gardening book is whether or not it motivates me to try something new. Michael Riggerio and Tom Christopher's *Annuals With Style* not only motivated me to get planters for my deck, but converted me from an annual atheist to a devote believer in the power of annuals to make the ordinary garden extraordinary. I'd expect nothing less from a book Michael Riggerio co-authored. Having worked at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) since the age of 14, he is now NYBG's Head Curator. He also teaches an array of courses at NYBG's School of Professional Horticulture. While few horticulturist's resume come close to his, the secret of his book and his own professional success lies in one word, which I have heard used over and over again to describe this remarkable individual. That word is "passion". Michael Riggerio's passion for plants is manifested through out *Annuals With Style*. The book has hundreds of beautiful pictures, most of which he took throughout his career. (He never goes anywhere without his camera. You never know when you will see an interesting plant!) It also gives the reader practical, clear instructions on how to lay out a bed or border, as well as how to calculate the number of plants needed to make the most intricate designs. (Following the book's guidance, I designed a giant clock made out of annual flowers, just like the one I saw in Europe many years ago!) The plant descriptions go way beyond the basic growing zones, size, shape, color and required sun light. Detailed oriented individuals and horticulturists will appreciate the extra tid-bits of information, such as each plant's family and origins.

Where perennials and shrubs provide static and permanent elements in your garden, annuals are a fluid element that you can change from year to year. This book gives you all the background you need to get started with an attractive Annual garden. It is divided into three parts: garden design;

making them grow; and an illustrated guide to many common annuals. The design section details the process of selecting plants, not only for color, but compatibility with their location and neighboring plants. The second section will help cure your "brown thumb" if you have difficulty keeping things alive. You will learn how to properly feed and water your plants. The last section has color photos and great detail about each plant presented; Latin name, sowing, growing and care are here. This book is not only useful for researching and designing your garden, it is beautifully illustrated with rich color photographs throughout. There are also some color diagrams where appropriate. Write your name in this book and chain it to your coffee table. After seeing your results the first season, the neighbors may be tempted to carry it off for their own use!

I must admit - I do not love annuals- Having said that much to preface my comments- For me this is the only book I need on this subject! It covers planning, planting and maintenance. The planning section seems especially helpful and will be a tremendous help in achieving a finished product that fits a desired look. The color planning seems very well addressed with particular attention the area to be planted in formulation the design elements (suggested on graph paper). The writer seems to love annuals and it shows! The photography is beautiful. This would make a nice housewarming gift!

You may not look at annuals the same way again after reading this excellent book. It is full of ideas on how to use them in your garden and should offer any gardener bored with those boring old marigolds some inspiration! You can tell that the authors are passionate about their subject but the photographs alone could make this a book worth purchasing. Simply magnificent photography! A beautiful book and one of the best I have ever seen on annuals.

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