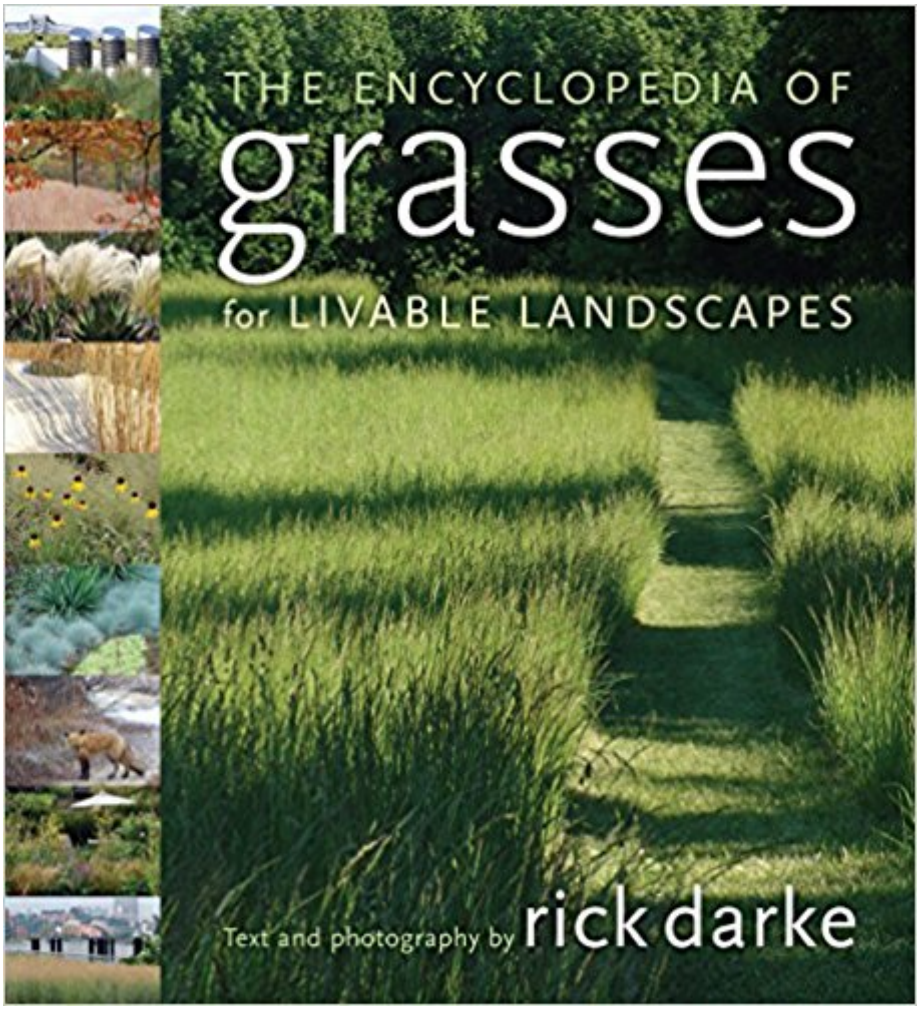
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The Encyclopedia Of Grasses For Livable Landscapes



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Synopsis

In this new book noted grass expert and advocate Rick Darke addresses both the aesthetic qualities of grasses in private gardens and the opportunities and challenges of using them in wild and constructed public landscapes. All the true grasses, sedges, rushes, restios, and cattails that possess ornamental merit or that can contribute to ecological plantings are described, and practical matters of propagation, growth, and maintenance are also covered. More than 1000 stunning photographs show details of individual plants and hundreds of gardens and landscapes in which grasses play a prominent part. This worthy successor to The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses is a new type of design reference that sets a standard for inspired, sustainable use of grasses.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Taking a broad view of gardening with grasses, Darke acknowledges the ornamental attributes that enhance private plantings and looks at the myriad possibilities for using grasses in natural areas and public landscapes. A notable photographer, Darke includes more than 1,000 entrancing photographs to illustrate grass family members, from grasses and sedges to rushes, restios, and cattails. Issues of sustainability and ecology color Darke’s thoughtful approach. International travels take him through Japan and houses thatched with miscanthus to a railway line in Pennsylvania where he documents switchgrass emerging from granite walls. A presentation of the botany, aesthetics, and design potential of grasses advances the concept of gardening with these plants.

Each plant entry includes advice on maintenance, cultivation, and nomenclature implements^B as well as descriptions of characteristics and cultural requirements. Darke's impressive achievement should stand as the definitive resource for grasses for some time to come. Alice JoyceCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

Ã¢â ¬Å“Has a far more global perspective than his earlier books. . . . This new book opens its boundaries to welcome plants from other parts of the world if they can thrive without water, fertilizer and pesticides; if they are not invasive; and if they can harmonize with the surrounding landscape.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“What a beauty. Rick is one of the best of all time; passionate about gardening and plants, so talented and a good guy. Really knows his grasses.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •NPR Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“DarkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s accuracy in listing and describing ornamental grasses reflects his scholarship on the subject. . . . The subject is overwhelming to cover in one reference, but Darke has done it with great clarity here.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Washington Post Ã¢â ¬Å“A scholarly encyclopedia of ornamental grasses, the most comprehensive and well-researched book on the subject, and one that will remain the most important reference on ornamental grasses for decades.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •BBC Gardens Ã¢â ¬Å“Just what the plant doctor ordered. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a tonic for the eyes with more than 1,000 color photographs.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Newsday Ã¢â ¬Å“DarkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s impressive achievement should stand as the definitive resource for grasses for some time to come.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist Ã¢â ¬Å“A wealth of ideas and information. . . . A plethora of design ideas.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •SciTech Book News Ã¢â ¬Å“It is ever so much more than just big and beautiful. It is comprehensive, up-to-date, and mature. Darke shows us grasses. . . as bonafide denizens of the modern garden and, further, places them in the forefront of the movement to develop ecologically functional, Ã¢â ¬Ëœnaturalã¢â ¬â„¢ landscapes.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Pacific Horticulture Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“ThereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a new love song to grasses, and its notes range up and down the entire scale, from the highs of a grassÃ¢â ¬â„¢s simple, natural beauty, to the lows of the cultural requirements to grow each one successfully. . . . Darke completely supercedes his previous book.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Garden Design Online Ã¢â ¬Å“The detailed descriptions of ornamental grasses and evocative examples of their use in the landscape offer something for gardeners of all levels of expertise and experience.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •American Gardener Ã¢â ¬Å“Opening chapters discuss the global significance, botany and beauty of grasses. Design, cultivation and maintenance are also detailed. The massive plant encyclopedia describes hundreds of different grasses. . . . with specifics to help gardeners select the most appropriate grasses for their conditions and help

nurseries decide which ones to stock.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •LAÃ Â Times Ã¢â ¬Å“What a beauty. Rick is one of the best of all time; passionate about gardening and plants.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Homegrown

This is an awesome book. I own another of Rick Darke's grass books, the Timber Press pocket guide, which is also excellent as an overall reference. This one, though, goes in to a depth I didn't know I needed until I saw it! I find I am reading every page, after having skimmed every beautiful photo. I particularly admire the wisdom behind the design theory (see the chapter on design)--a true artist's understanding of color, form and line. Why use grasses in a garden design? And how to do so? The topic is eloquently covered. So well in fact that I have had a bit of a paradigm shift.In addition to Darke's exquisite artistic sense, his horticultural, encyclopedic knowledge of all these plants is very appreciated. I can trust what he tells me. The only thing missing (and missing from almost all--dare I say ALL--ornamental grasses books) is the width size for grasses listed. One needs to try to extrapolate a probable width from the height which IS given for every plant. Granted this piece of info must be hard for authors as there may be two or even three width sizes for grasses--the basal clump in spring, the foliage fully expanded in summer, and tip-to-tip spread IN BLOOM in fall, for example. And there is the question of time as well: e.g. a 3-year size vs. a 10-year size. Still, a gardener needs to know these things: what sort of space to give a grass for its best look to be achieved.The above is a small point for an overall excellent book. It covers ornamental grasses from every angle, from a man very experienced in the genre.

Beautifully illustrated book and so specific. I had a hard time getting used to the detail because most books give you just a paragraph on the grass and very little on care, etc.It's everything you want to know about Ornamental Grasses and more. Very, very complete reference source. Maybe be a bit too much for a average gardener, but if you love grasses and gardening -- this is an excellent book.

Super useful and informative. If you deal with grasses at all this book should be handy at all times !

Very informative, beautiful photographs.

I bought this book after seeing it at a local nursery where it's used as a reference book.I'm planting several varieties of grasses this year, mostly miscanthus, and find the informationand great photos to be exactly what I wanted in a reference book.

Darke is the one for grasses.

A beautiful and through reference on grasses, a great addition to my gardening library and highly recommended. It won't disappoint.

Excellent for the experienced and inexperienced grasses' growers. Beautiful photographs and readable, informative text. We live in Maine and have planted many grasses. This book helped us understand soil conditions and care.

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