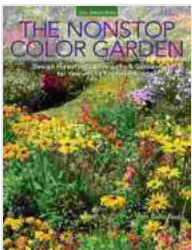


# Design Flowering Landscapes: Gardens for Year-Round Enjoyment

Are you tired of your garden looking drab and lifeless for most of the year? Do you wish you could enjoy the beauty and fragrance of blooming flowers from spring to fall? With careful planning and expert design, you can create a flowering landscape that provides year-round enjoyment.

In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the principles of designing flowering landscapes, provide plant recommendations for each season, and offer tips on how to create a garden that is both beautiful and sustainable.

Before you start planting, it is important to understand the basic principles of designing flowering landscapes. These principles will help you create a garden that is visually appealing, balanced, and sustainable.



## The Nonstop Color Garden: Design Flowering Landscapes & Gardens for Year-round Enjoyment

by Nellie Neal

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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## 1. Plan for Succession

One of the keys to creating a year-round flowering landscape is to plan for succession. This means choosing plants that bloom at different times of the year, so that there is always something in bloom. When planning for succession, consider the following:

- **Spring bloomers:** Early-blooming plants, such as daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths, provide a welcome splash of color after a long winter.
- **Summer bloomers:** Mid-season bloomers, such as roses, lilies, and daylilies, keep the garden looking vibrant throughout the summer months.
- **Fall bloomers:** Late-blooming plants, such as asters, chrysanthemums, and sedum, provide a final burst of color before winter sets in.

## 2. Create Focal Points

Focal points are areas of interest that draw the eye and add visual appeal to the landscape. They can be created using a variety of elements, such as:

- **Specimen plants:** Large, showy plants, such as trees or shrubs, can be used to create focal points in the garden.
- **Flower beds:** Colorful flower beds can be used to create focal points in the foreground or middle ground of the landscape.

- **Water features:** Water features, such as ponds or fountains, can add a touch of tranquility and create a focal point in the garden.

### **3. Use Color Theory**

Color theory can be used to create a variety of effects in the landscape. For example, using complementary colors (colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel) can create a striking and eye-catching display. Using analogous colors (colors that are adjacent to each other on the color wheel) can create a more subtle and harmonious effect.

### **4. Consider Texture and Form**

The texture and form of plants can add interest and depth to the landscape. Plants with different textures, such as smooth, rough, or feathery, can create a variety of visual effects. Plants with different forms, such as upright, spreading, or weeping, can be used to create a variety of shapes and silhouettes in the garden.

### **5. Pay Attention to Scale**

When choosing plants for your landscape, it is important to consider their scale. Large plants should be placed in the background, while smaller plants should be placed in the foreground. This will create a sense of balance and proportion in the garden.

Now that you understand the basic principles of designing flowering landscapes, it is time to start choosing plants. Here are some of the best plants for year-round bloom:

## **Spring:**

- Daffodils
- Tulips
- Hyacinths
- Crocuses
- Forsythia
- Magnolia

## **Summer:**

- Roses
- Lilies
- Daylilies
- Hydrangeas
- Salvia
- Coneflower

## **Fall:**

- Asters
- Chrysanthemums
- Sedum
- Goldenrod

- Ornamental grasses

## Winter:

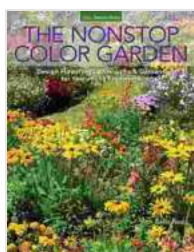
- Pansies
- Violets
- Hellebores
- Winter aconite
- Witch hazel

In addition to being beautiful, your flowering landscape should also be sustainable. Here are some tips for creating a sustainable flowering landscape:

- **Choose native plants:** Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, so they require less water and fertilizer than non-native plants.
- **Use organic fertilizers:** Organic fertilizers, such as compost or manure, help to improve soil health and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.
- **Water wisely:** Water your plants deeply and infrequently, rather than frequently and shallowly. This will encourage deep root growth and reduce water consumption.
- **Mulch around plants:** Mulch helps to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.

- **Avoid using pesticides:** Pesticides can harm beneficial insects and pollute the environment. Use natural pest control methods, such as beneficial insects or companion planting, whenever possible.

With careful planning and expert design, you can create a flowering landscape that provides year-round enjoyment. By following the principles outlined in this guide and choosing the right plants, you can create a beautiful and sustainable garden that will bring you joy for many years to come.



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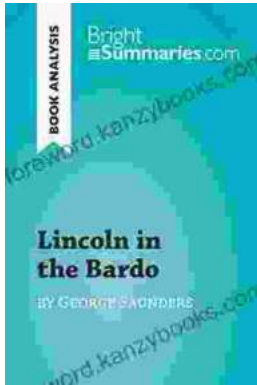
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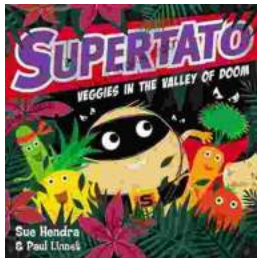
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