

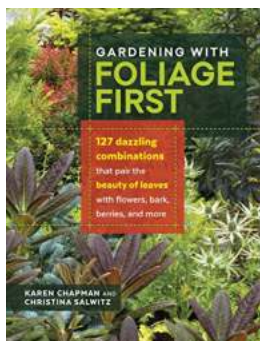
# Gardening With Foliage First: Create Stunning Outdoor Spaces with Lush Greenery



Gardening is not only about a variety of colorful flowers but also about the beauty and charm that lush green foliage can bring to your outdoor spaces. While flowers may grab most of the attention, incorporating foliage first can create a remarkable backdrop for your garden.

## Why Foliage First?

Many garden enthusiasts tend to underestimate the impact foliage can have on the overall aesthetics of their landscape. Foliage acts as a canvas that gives depth, contrast, and form to your garden. It harmonizes different elements, ensuring a balanced visual appeal.



### Gardening with Foliage First: 127 Dazzling Combinations That Pair the Beauty of Leaves with Flowers, Bark, Berries, and More

by Karen Chapman (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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By focusing on foliage first, you can create a garden that is visually striking throughout the year. The beauty of foliage lies in its longevity; unlike flowers that bloom for a limited time, well-chosen foliage plants can provide year-round interest, offering a lasting impact on your outdoor spaces.

## Choosing the Right Foliage

To make the most of foliage in your garden, it is essential to select plants that complement each other and accentuate the desired features. Here are some popular foliage plants to consider:

## 1. Hostas



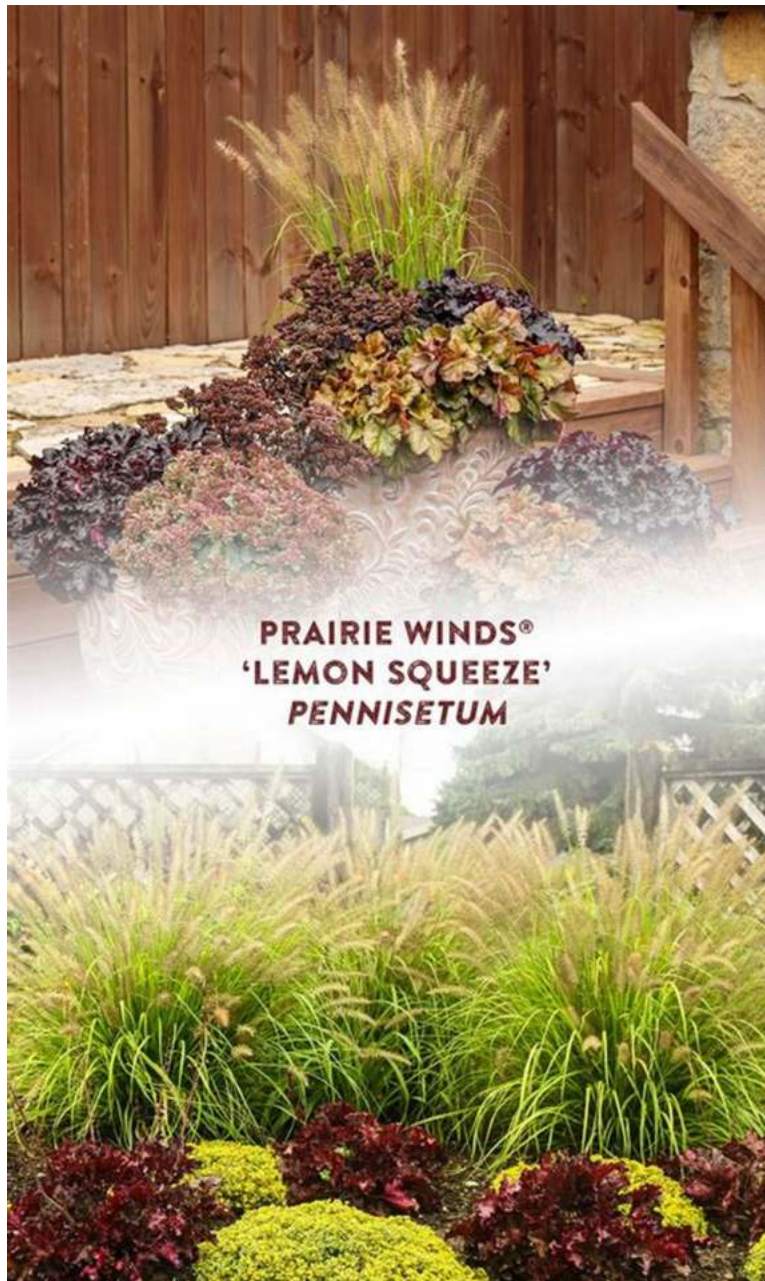
Hostas are known for their large, lush leaves that come in various shades of green. These low-maintenance plants can thrive in both sunny and shaded areas, making them a versatile addition to any garden.

## 2. Japanese Maples



The stunning foliage of Japanese Maples brings a touch of elegance and vibrant colors to your garden. With their delicate leaves in shades of red, green, or purple, these trees are perfect for adding drama and visual interest.

### **3. Ornamental Grasses**



Ornamental grasses are renowned for their graceful foliage movements, providing a sense of rhythm and motion within your garden. Their feathery plumes and various textures can add unique dimensions to your outdoor spaces.

### **Creative Uses of Foliage**

By incorporating different foliage plants, you can create a wide range of captivating garden features. Here are some creative ways to make foliage the

star of your garden:

## **1. Foliage Borders**

Create stunning borders by arranging foliage plants with varying heights, colors, and textures. This will add depth and dimension to your garden, while also framing other elements such as flower beds or pathways.

## **2. Focal Points**

Use bold foliage plants to create focal points in your garden. The juxtaposition of large, eye-catching leaves against more delicate elements can be visually striking and draw attention to specific areas.

## **3. Container Gardens**

Experiment with container gardening by using foliage plants. Whether it's a simple arrangement of different leaf shapes and colors or a mix of foliage and flowers, container gardens can create versatile and portable displays.

## **Maintaining Foliage Plants**

While foliage plants are relatively low-maintenance, they still require proper care to thrive and enhance your garden's beauty. Here are some essential tips for maintaining foliage plants:

- Water regularly, ensuring the soil is moist but not waterlogged.
- Apply organic, slow-release fertilizers to provide essential nutrients.
- Prune as needed to remove dead or damaged leaves and promote healthy growth.
- Protect from extreme weather conditions, such as frost or excessive heat.

Gardening with foliage first allows you to create an enchanting outdoor space that is not limited by seasonal blooms. By selecting the right foliage plants and utilizing creative designs, you can achieve a captivating garden that provides year-round visual interest and charm. So, embrace the power of foliage and watch your garden transform into a breathtaking oasis of greenery!



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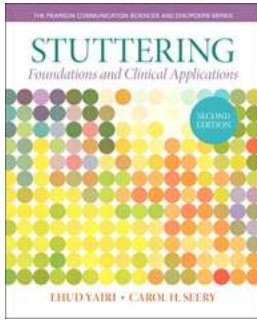
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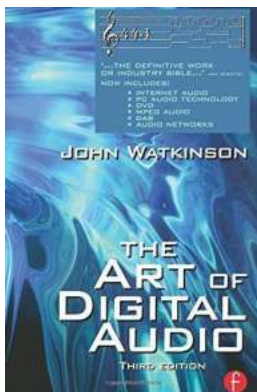
Create a foliage-driven garden that dazzles!

Although seductive, flowers, by their fleeting nature, are a fickle base to provide long-lasting gardens with year-round interest. Tackle this problem with the advice in *Gardening with Foliage First*. Learn how to first build a framework of foliage and then layer in flowers and other artistic elements as the finishing touches. This simple, recipe-style approach to garden design features 127 combinations for both sunny and shady gardens that work for a variety of climates and garden challenges.



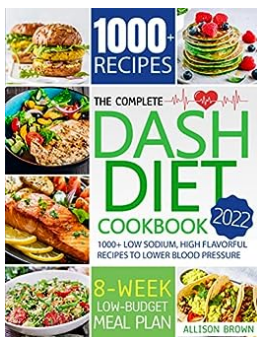
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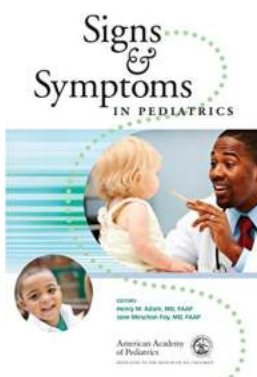
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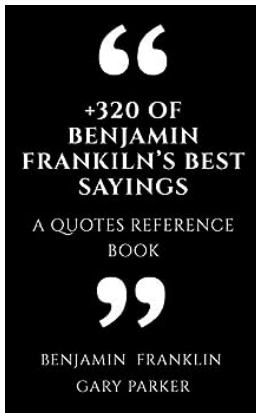
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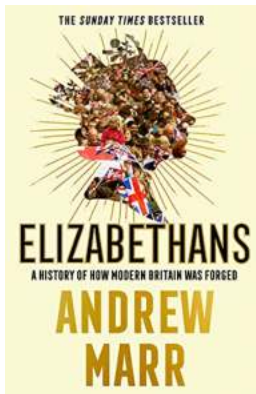
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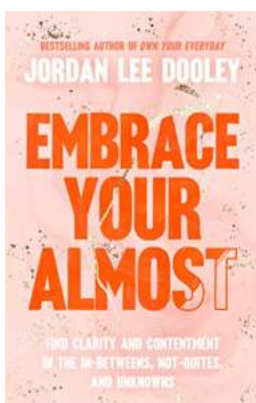
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