Home Gardeners School:
What Plant Where? – Reference books

- A highly opinionated “short list” of great books about plants and design.

**Plant books**
Manual of Woody Landscape Plants – Michael A. Dirr
Simply the best book on woody plants there is. A well-worn copy rests on every “plant-weenie’s” bookshelf.

The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes – Rick Darke
Spectacular photo’s, great information. Best reference to date on a wonderful class of plants. Can’t miss. Darke’s slightly older book, Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses, is also outstanding.

Taylor’s Guides
Collection of books covering a wide range of plant types. Great for identifying and basic information.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbooks
Easy to read handbooks written by top gardening experts

**Books about arranging, combining and using plants (by author)**
James Van Sweden  
Gardening with Water, Gardening with Nature, Architecture in the Garden  
Bold Romantic Gardens (with Wolfgang Oehme).
Inspirational. Lots of ideas. Mostly larger-scale projects beautifully illustrated. (The ideas still apply to smaller-scale projects)

Thomas D. Church  
Gardens are for People  
Revised edition (1995) of a classic tome written in the 50’s by one of the most influential masters of modern landscape design.

William H. Fredrick jr.  
100 Great Garden Plants, The Exuberant Garden and the Controlling Hand  
“100 Great Plants” covered, but hundreds more are discussed in combinations. Plant suggestions are eminently useful as the author hails from Delaware.

Pamela J. Harper  
Designing with Perennials, Time Tested Plants  
Keen observations, great photographs, great information. Many, many combinations.

Allen Lacy  
The Garden in Autumn  
NJ author who will rock your world about what is out there beyond “ho-hum” spring flowers. Eloquently written. An easy read. Another gem that is worth searching for.

Doug Tallamy  
Bringing Nature Home  
Ground-breaking book that explains (without lecturing) why you should consider planting natives.

Unfortunately, like many great horticulture books, some of the above are out of print and may be difficult to find. Many of them have been recommended to seminar attendees in previous years classes which has further reduced the availability of these gems (Sorry!). Hunt for them at Bricks and Mortar stores and on the Internet: Amazon, Abebooks, Barnes & Noble and Timber Press are good starting places. Happy Hunting!