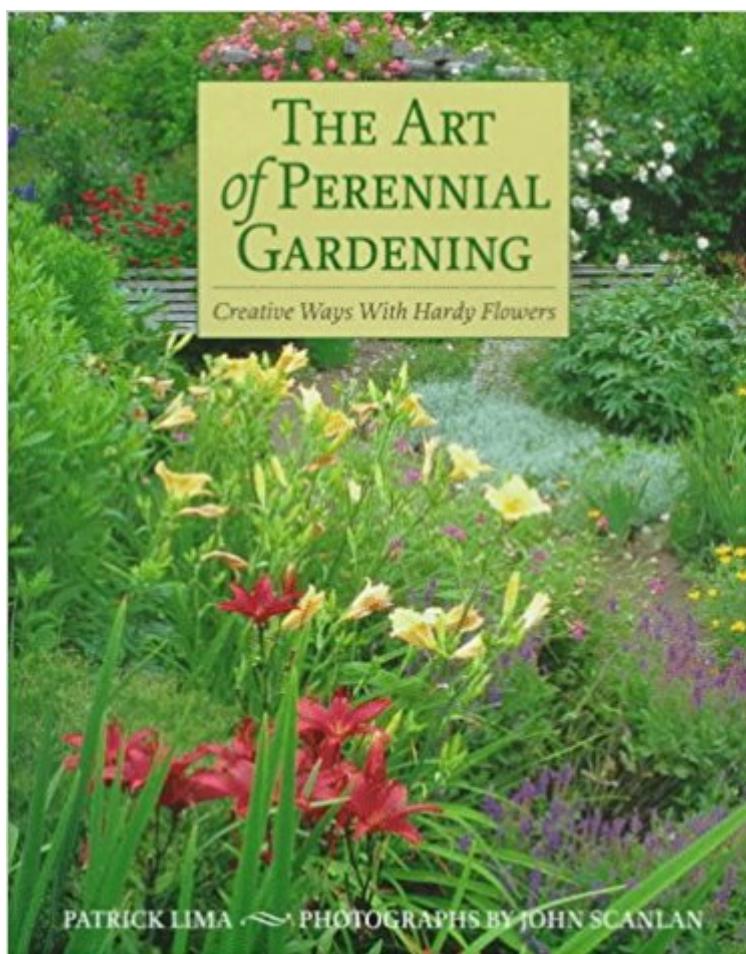


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# The Art Of Perennial Gardening: Creative Ways With Hardy Flowers



## **Synopsis**

In *The Art of Perennial Gardening* Patrick Lima shares the secrets and strategies he has gleaned from gardening in Ontario's Bruce Peninsula, bringing a seasoned, pragmatic perspective to his latest work. Beautifully illustrated, inspiring and often humorous, this book is infused with that staple of good gardening: the promise of what is possible. The author offers hundreds of solutions and options for the perennial garden, suggesting plant combinations for every phase of the growing season. Whether you're cajoling a tiny backyard plot into beauty or facing a landscape of intimidating proportions, Lima has much to teach both the novice and the seasoned gardener about the creative act of garden-making.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

How delightful to find a visually stunning book that is an equally appealing read: wry, witty, and packed with creative ideas ... a valuable and enjoyable addition to any gardener's library. (Better Homes and Gardens Special Interests 2000-06-01)

Patrick Lima shares his gardening secrets and strategies in several books, including *Herbs* and *The Harrowsmith Perennial Garden*. John Scanlan's photographs have appeared in many books and magazines.

i originally borrowed this book from the library and wound up re-borrowing it so much that i decided to buy it (a rarity for me). since then, i keep it in my satchel which is always in reach. i am currently

designing and installing a new garden, and many of the combinations i will use are from this book.the author's comments and experiences are instructive, humorous and well written. indeed, i would not mind reading any writing he might produce.

This book is a real asset for the type of gardening that I am interested in perfecting which is a garden of interest with shrubs and perennials that are in their happiest place and strong enough to fight it out with anything invading their territory, and win. Patrick Lima (writer) and his partner John Scanlan(photographer) chronicle their journey of designing, planting and maintaining their garden, "Larkwhistle", noting their triumphs and their failures. Mostly what we are treated to are the triumphs, what a very beautiful garden it is. Mr. Lima's informative style of writing is a pleasure to read packed with really useful information about many, many varieties of perennials with great tips (from his own experience) about grouping, color blending and yearly maintainance. He speaks easily about his own failures and it is obvious from Mr. Scanlan's photographs that he has had plenty of successes. What I do especially enjoy about the book, aside from the intelligent writing, is the way the photographs really show groupings of plantings and what works as underplantings and mid-range planting etc. So many perennial books fall victim to the seduction of close-ups however Mr. Scanlan carefully avoids that trap. For me this is a working book and I suppose it is destined to be smudged with dirt and plant stains as I drag it around in my cart but it has already helped me make a couple of good decisions for my ever evolving, challenging garden.

Patrick Lima and John Scanlan once again have produced a lovely and informative book for gardeners. I am writing from zone 2, where gardening is a challenge! I found many useful ideas, and practical "how-to's". I have read it from cover to cover, and wait eagerly for the snow to melt, so I can try some of their ideas. Buy this book, it is money well spent!

I thoroughly enjoyed this book! This book took me from color to design to planning borders so that something is in bloom all the time. The photographs provided identification of plants and I have found myself returning to them again and again to study the author's compositions. I also shared his views on gardening's place in one's life. Highly recommend.

Patrick Lima is without question my favorite garden writer. He is knowledgeable and witty, and really offers comprehensive material for gardening with perennials in a zone 4 region. I can't recommend this book highly enough. John's photos are spectacular.

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