



15 Irresistible Perennials for the Upper Midwest

Above photo of Schizachyrium scoparium 'Ha Ha Tonka' in Anja and Piet Oudolf's home garden in Hummelo, Netherlands

Here are the plants and gardens we talked about in the October, 20 Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society presentation which highlights some perennials that are great for creating a dreamy, naturalistic garden and are used in some of the most compelling gardens in the naturalistic style.

Oudolf Garden Detroit on Belle Isle in Detroit, MI

Lurie Garden in downtown Chicago, IL

Hermannshof Botanical Garden in Weinheim, Germany

Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein, Germany

Vlinderhof in Maximapark located in Utrecht, Netherlands

Maximilianpark in Hamm, Germany

Etzenrade Castle in Etzenrade, Netherlands

NOMA garden in Copenhagen, Denmark (private but accessible when dining there)

Anja and Piet Oudolf's home garden, Hummelo (private).

These plants have character and help to create landscapes that satisfy an elemental need for a feeling of wildness and evoke emotion and depth in planting design.



Panicum virgatum 'Purple Tears'

Schizachyrium scoparium 'Ha Ha Tonka'

Molinia 'Dark Beauty' (also 'Crystal Veil')

Sesleria autumnalis (also 'John Greenlee Hybrid')

Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau' (mentioned *Sanguisorba canadensis* here as well)

Actaea 'Queen of Sheba'

Persicaria amplexicaulis 'Alba' (also *Persicaria* 'Blackfield')

Eryngium yuccifolium (and its best friend *Eryngium* root borer moth—*Papaipema eryngii* which require this plant to complete its lifecycle)



Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'

Echinacea purpurea 'Fatal Attraction'

Phlox paniculata 'Sweet Laura' (and 'Blue Paradise' also its just really fun to let the phlox's cross as they get pollinated by hawkmoths and hummingbirds. Sure it makes a rangy group of flowers but what amazing scents.

Iris chrysographes 'Around Midnight'

Aruncus 'Misty Lace'

Polomonium 'Heaven Scent'

Osmundastrum cinnamomeum (mentioned *Geranium nodosum* and *Tiarellas* and *Brunneras* as good companions for a shade garden with great foliage)

Hosta 'Halcyon' (in combination with *Molinia* 'Poul Peterson')



Gentiana andrewsii (in combination with *Calamintha nepeta* sbsp. *Nepeta*)



Agastache 'Blue Fortune' which the video was of a plant that came from 'Blue Fortune' with quite tall flowers and highly attractive to butterflies—so I do not have a true name for this one. Perhaps it needs one! Yari, a plantswoman mentioned in the talk would be a possibility...

Books mentioned:

Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalaya by Jamaica Kincaid (a memoir of a plant collecting trip—adventurous)

The Well Gardened Mind by Sue Stuart-Smith

New Naturalism by Kelly Norris (January 19 talk!)

Planting the Natural Garden by Piet Oudolf and Henk Gerritson
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