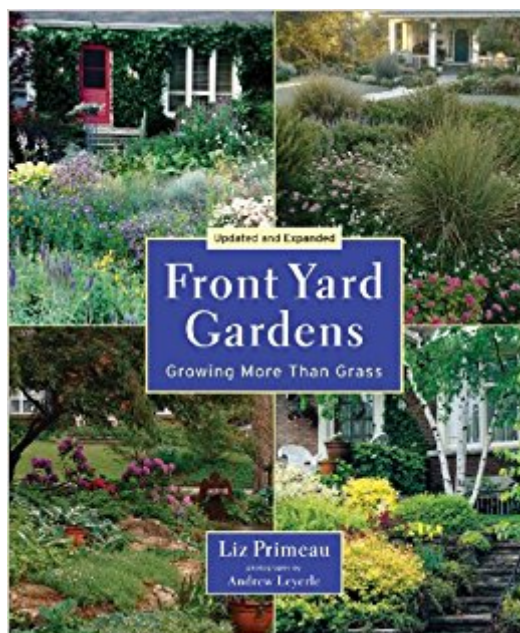


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# Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass



## Synopsis

Praise for the first edition: "The book is handsome, informative and amusingly written, and it should serve as an inspiration to those who are tired of old-fashioned lawns." -- Publishers Weekly

Liz Primeau was ahead of her time when she transformed her manicured lawn in the suburbs into a mixed garden with a profusion of flowering plants, shrubs and cacti. Ever since, she has enjoyed an eye-catching front garden that requires no chemicals and little watering. Packed with practical tips and more than 250 beautiful photographs, this new, revised edition of *Front Yard Gardens*: Explores the history of the lawn and our attachment to it Profiles 75 front yard gardens from across North America Provides step-by-step instructions to start and grow a fabulous front yard garden This new edition of a classic guide covers planning and design, removing the grass, enriching the soil and planting and maintaining the garden. It is divided into several types of front yard gardens, including cottage, minimalist, secret, neighborhood, downtown and natural. Primeau discusses the key elements of each type and also provides a comprehensive list of complementary plants for each. In this expanded edition, Primeau chronicles how her own garden and neighborhood have evolved, profiles several new and delightfully different gardens, and offers timely advice such as eco-friendly solutions for controlling bugs and weeds. *Front Yard Gardens* is an inspiring treasure-trove of ideas for home gardeners.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Primeau, founding editor of *Canadian Gardening* magazine, posits that a perfect lawn may not

always be a good thing, arguing that well-manicured lawns are high-maintenance, chemical-dependent water guzzlers; she would be happy to see them all replaced by the flower gardens so often relegated to the back yards of urban and suburban houses. Starting with the luxuriant display of flowers, foliage plants, and shrubs in her own front yard in Toronto, she discusses more than 70 front yard gardens, most of them in Canada but some in Texas, Arizona, California and Wisconsin. She divides these front yard gardens into eight types-cottage, small city, opulent, minimalist, fusion (some grass allowed), natural, neighborhood and secret-and shows in text and photographs how they were designed, how they reflect the personalities of their owners, and what plants were used. There can be obstacles to such gardens in cities and suburbs-neighbors' objections, local regulations, overhead and underground wires, bad drainage, and hard surfaces-and she describes how many people have overcome these problems. Unfortunately, Primeau doesn't include among the many splendid photographs in the book any that show how one of these colorful gardens would stand out in the context of a block where all the other houses are fronted with carpets of grass. But this is a small matter. The book is handsome, informative and amusingly written, and it should serve as an inspiration to those who are tired of old-fashioned lawns. 240 color photographs. Garden Book Club and Country Home & Garden Book Club selection. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Alternatives to the traditional lawn effectively cut down on water usage and may also play host to beneficial insects and birds. Once the desire to do away with grass takes root, readers can turn to Primeau for help in rejuvenating a front yard so that flowers, foliage textures, and hardscaping come together in inviting swaths to both beautify and benefit the environment. Options presented range from cottage style to a minimalist approach stressing restrained designs. Even fusion plans are included, showing landscapes where small areas of grass combine with beds, borders, or expansive plantings. Primeau's Canadian point of view proposes plant lists spanning the mild realm of Vancouver, cold-winter regions of Winnipeg and Toronto, along with a smattering of gardens from Texas, Arizona, and Wisconsin. Useful as a source book, this volume presents photographs and text that suggest potential ideas to increase curb appeal through the transformation of front yards and parkways. Alice Joyce Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you buy this book, be clear that the vast majority of the emphasis is on the area of Ontario,

Canada, where the author lives, especially her own yard. Mostly, she shows replacing lawns with water-intensive shrubs and perennials. As a Californian, I was hoping to find some less thirsty ideas for the West. But this book has very few examples of this. It is only suitable for folks living in the Midwest and Eastern US and Canada. Disappointed and returned it.

I gave it 3 stars because it did not meet my expectations. I found the photos and text interesting, but I would have liked to see planting plans for the pictures. It does me little good to know the names of the plants if I can't identify them in the picture. I was looking for a guide to planting rather than pretty pictures. It is a worthwhile book and might be enjoyed by others with different expectations.

What a delightful book, full of photos and wonderful ideas. We've already replaced most of the grass in both the front and back yards with gardens. Neighbors, dog walkers and joggers stop by to tell us how much they like what we've done. We see all sorts of birds and butterflies in our yard now. If you don't have the time to visit major botanical gardens and arboretums to gather ideas (like we did), this book will be a great help to you. Digging up that first shovel full of grass is the hardest part--but caution, you may find yourself addicted to beautiful gardens and digging up the rest of the lawn.

I love this book. It really makes me inspired to create a garden out of my front yard-unused lawn space. I recommend this book to anyone who wants great pictures ideas on how to start a flower/herb (with trees and shrubs) in their front yards, or back yards. This is a picture book mainly, if you want a book on how to start an ornamental garden this may not be the book for you. With that said, you will still want to buy this book. It will surely inspire you to find out how to start a garden!! just love it.

So much that this is the second copy I have bought, darn it (lost the other in the last move.) If, like me, you are willing to spend most of your spare time and discretionary income on your garden, it is nice to have guides that provide help, inspiration, and some tangible cues on, for example, thinking about how house colors/hardware/hardscaping materials interact with the form and function of your garden. I loved the story of the author's own garden, as well as the photographs which showed the journey from suburban lawn to a gorgeously abundant cottage garden. The book is just really well written and interesting and seems to anticipate questions before they arrive in your mind. This is my favorite garden "inspiration" book. Highest recommendation.

Beautiful pictorial, more info would have been better.

Good ideas and plant sources. With an acre and a half, a little more overwhelming to think about putting into practice in a large yard.

I love this book. I have checked it out of my local library many times, copied pages, and yet I still dream about the photos, the author's interesting story of how she reconceived her own front yard, and not in just any climate, but a cool place. no matter. also loved the variety of front yard transformations - from desert to lush, and how each one can show off one's home to great advantage, is so great. just bought this with cc points, so excited to finally own a copy!

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