



An Amazon "Top Ten Best Books" selection

When & How to Break the Rules

Presented by Rebecca Sweet

Rebecca Sweet is a landscape designer, author, and lifelong gardener based in Northern California. Her gardens have been featured in *Sunset*, *Fine Gardening*, *Woman's Day*, and *American Gardener* and she has been a guest on the critically acclaimed PBS series *Growing a Greener World*. She is the author of *Refresh Your Garden Design with Color, Texture & Form* and the co-author of *Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small & Large Spaces*. Learn more about Rebecca's designs, books and upcoming events at www.harmonyinthegarden.com

When & How to Break The Rules (to achieve a glorious garden!)

A well-designed garden is so much more than following a prescribed set of garden 'rules.' Instead, a truly memorable garden contains counterintuitive concepts resulting in "Wow - I've never thought of that!" moments. To achieve this, sometimes you need to be a rebel and break a few rules. But knowing how to go against the grain while not wreaking havoc in your garden's overall design can be a little tricky!

Let landscape designer, Rebecca Sweet, walk you through *how* and *when* to break the rules to achieve true garden glory!

My favorite rules to break (without causing chaos in your garden)

- Rule #1: *Right Plant-Right Place*
 - How to get away with it? Learn to become a Master Manipulator
- Rule #2: *Use a Restrained Color Palette to Reduce Chaos*
 - How to get away with it? Understand the ABC's of the Color Wheel
- Rule #3: *Pick a Garden Style: Formal or Informal*
 - How to get away with it? Incorporate BOTH styles with clever plant selections
- Rule #4: *Always Use Proper Spacing Between New Plants*
 - How to get away with it? Use a more naturalistic approach to spacing
- Rule #5: *Layers in the Garden Bed: Tall in the Back, Short up Front*
 - How to get away with it? Discover the power of see-thru plants & control the eye's line of sight
- Rule #6: *Rule of 3's for the Most Pleasing Designs*
 - How to get away with it? Unleash the power of one (and sometimes two, three, and four!)

Presentation Plant List

Rule #1: Right Plant-Right Place

- *Persicaria affinis* 'Border Jewels' zone 4-9
- *Cordyline* 'Pink Star' zone 8-10
- *Melinus nerviglumis* 'Pink Crystals' z 8-10
- *Pennisetum massaicum* (Bunnytails) zone 7-10
- *Euonymus* 'Emerald n' Gold' zones 5-8
- *Elaeagnus* 'Gilt Edge' zones 7-9

Rule #3: Formal vs. Informal Style

- *Salix purpurea* 'Nana' zone 4-8
- *Thuja occidentalis* 'Golden Globe' zone 4-8
- *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Kohuhu' z 8-10
- *Berberis* 'Golden Ruby' zone 4-9
- *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Ellwoodii' zone 5-8
- *Ginkgo biloba* 'Princeton Sentry' zone 3-8
- *Picea glauca* 'Conica' zone 2-6
- *Ilex* 'Sky Pencil' zones 5-9

Rule #4: Layering the Garden Bed

- *Verbena bonariensis* zone 7-11
- *Anigozanthos* 'Harmony' zone 10-11
- *Mahonia* 'Soft Caress' zone 7-9
- *Datisca cannabina* (False Hemp) z. 4-8
- *Grevillea* 'Peaches & Cream' z9-10

- *Grevillea* 'Long John' zone 9-11
- *Lomandra* 'Breeze' zone 7-11
- *Perovskia atriplicifolia* zone 5-10

Rule #6: Rule of Three

- *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula' zone 6-8
- *Chrysanthemum* 'Sheffield Pink' z 5-9
- *Helianthemum* 'Wisley Primrose' zone 4-8
- *Berberis* 'Orange Rocket' zone 5-9
- *Fescue* 'Elijah Blue' zone 4-8
- *Teucrium aroanium* Creeping Germander z5-10
- *Miscanthus* 'Morning Light' zone 5-9

Additional Info

- *Cold hardy grevillea article:*
http://www.desertnorthwest.com/articles/grevilleas_revisited.html
- *Lessons on form and shape at The Kubota Garden*
<https://harmonyinthegarden.com/kubota-garden-lessons-in-form-and-shape/>
- *Lessons on color, texture, and form at New York's Conservatory Garden*
<https://harmonyinthegarden.com/central-park-conservatory-garden/>