Starting Tuesday, December 8th, 2020, Deborah Chud will be offering a Zoom course on Piet Oudolf's Design Principles. (Course outline below)

Mass Hort Members will receive a 10% discount ($45 per class instead of $50). Please contact her via email dfchud@yahoo.com for details and to register.

Deborah is a resident of Chestnut Hill, MA, member of the Perennial Plant Association, and Piet Oudolf researcher. At the invitation of Noel Kingsbury (Piet Oudolf's co-author on multiple books), she recently presented her 5 years of research on Piet Oudolf's plant combinations at an international event under the aegis of gardenmasterclass.org. About half the participants were professional landscape designers and landscape architects. Participants came from the UK, Northern and Central Europe, Japan, and Argentina.

“To evaluate my garden as a representation of the content of the course I'm about to teach, I invite you to visit my Instagram @pietgarden, which can be accessed on a laptop via this link:
https://www.instagram.com/pietgarden/?hl=en
If for any reason this link fails, you can click the top listing in the search results here."

Piet Oudolf’s Design Principles

I. Introduction

- A. How I discovered Piet’s work
- B. Strategy for imitating the Oudolf look and feel
- C. Comprehensive database of Piet’s plant combinations
- D. Plant combinations as basis of an Oudolfian garden

II. Historical Context

- A. Prevailing trends
- B. New Perennial Movement as reaction to these trends

III. Piet's Contributions

A. New canon of plants: closer to natural ancestors, large plants, ornamental grasses

B. Introduction of structure-based gardening

C. Expanded season of interest

IV. What is structure?

V. Relationship between structure and color

VI. Balance between coherence and contrast

VII. Locating plants in space: use of screen/curtain plants

VIII. Foliage shape and texture

IX. Structure plants vs. filler plants

X. Functions of filler plants

XI. Repetition and rhythm

XII. Planting design models: blocks +/- specimens +/- scatter plants

XIII. How design models influence balance between coherence and contrast

XIV. How to generate a plant list

XV. How to create a planting plan

XVI. Strategies for determining juxtapositions

XVII. How to determine plant quantities

XVIII. Theory in action: step by step designing with plants

XIX. Participant design dilemmas