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
- *Ginko 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* ‘Glaucag 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](http://www.desertnorthwest.com/articles/grevilleas_revisited.html)