



*people plants passion*

**Kelly D. Norris**

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## **KEY**

(T)= lecture appropriate or customizable for trade shows and industry audiences

(C)= lecture appropriate or customizable for consumer audiences

### **Plants with Style (T)(C)**

Gardeners need chic, sustainable, thriving plants for modern lifestyles. Why settle for lackluster gardens filled with dull, ho-hum plants? Plants after all are the very essence of fashionable gardening. In this spirited, provocative lecture, 20-something plantsman Kelly Norris calls for a garden revolution: out with boring plants and in with stylish alternatives that captivate and enthrall. A passionate horticulturist and lifelong gardener, Kelly is the ideal guide to the botanical riches available to today's gardeners. In chapters on environment, structure, seasonal standouts, and plant combinations he shines a spotlight on the A-list plants in every category—plants that will thrive, not merely survive. Along the way, he shows you how to forge a personal style in harmony with your garden's setting and local environment. As Kelly puts it, "A garden is the best way to savor life on earth." Let *Plants with Style* guide you to the plants that will provide a richer, more fulfilling connection between you and your own patch of soil.

### **Planting for the Future (T)**

Modern landscapes have to be more than beautiful. Gardening with purpose is the new mantra for 21<sup>st</sup> century consumers. Gardens have to be aesthetically interesting, while serving multiple purposes—benefiting wildlife, feeding us, providing safe and peaceful spaces for public gatherings, mitigating stormwater and the list goes on. The plants of our future, the new products that will shape our industry, might surprise you. In this lecture especially tailored to landscape design professionals, plantsman Kelly Norris challenges audiences to plant more diversity in landscapes, while maximizing aesthetics and functionality in contemporary design. The synergies of retail, public and commercial horticulture collide for a beautiful, surprising and ecologically conscious look at the New American garden.

### **New Perennials for Modern Gardens (T)(C)**

With all the interest in the New Perennial Movement and a market shift towards sustainable gardening, a new palette of plants has emerged at the intersection of form and function. Perennials used in this style of gardening thrive in social arrangements, translating their native ecologies into beautiful communities of plants that ultimately require less resources and incorporate more diversity into the modern landscape. While many old favorites continue to have a place in these contemporary designs, many underappreciated perennials, particularly natives, have a new context in which to be appreciated. Plantsman Kelly Norris will highlight several examples of sustainable, plant-driven gardens from across the country, comparing and contrasting them to the wild circumstances that inspired them, while introducing the audience to the perennials within them.

### **Life on the Edge: Tough Plants for Tough Places (T)(C)**

Across this vast continent, native vegetation grows and thrives in harsh, sometimes threatened, and highly variable environments. Gardeners know variable environments—the human-dominated landscape is perhaps one of the most trying places to grow plants, whether cultivated for beauty or sustenance. It's time to embrace the 21<sup>st</sup> century garden as a place where plants thrive, not just simply survive. In this tale from the road, plantsman Kelly Norris wears two hats—that of a plant ecologist and a horticulturist—while sharing with the audience a palette of garden-worthy plants from harsh environments across the U.S. Learn about how plants respond to their environment and how you can translate that into success in your own garden, even if you have less-than-glamorous soil.

### **Gardening with a Y (T)**

With all the uproar, discussion and seeming turmoil around the issue of Generation X and Y gardeners, some might wonder what the future holds for horticulture. Confounding the issue is a general lack of demographic data and inaccurate perceptions of young or beginning gardeners. So why not talk with a Gen Y horticulturist? 20-something plantsman Kelly Norris, the new horticulture manager at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden will open a dialogue about the needs, wants and interests of new gardeners under 40.

### **Wandering the Wild Lands: Native Plants in the American Garden (C)**

Kelly's love for native plants is almost as primal as his urge to garden. Growing up across the road from a seasoned botanist, Kelly's early botanical training took place on nightly summer walks for several years of his childhood. Those early influences have translated into a feverish obsession with plant exploration and collection and Kelly's unwavering commitment to introduce and promote the native plants that our industry continues to look past. Take up the explorer's hat and wander the wild lands with Kelly in this program infused with personal stories, lovely images of native landscapes, and a spirit calling you to think outside the box.

### **Cultivating the Rainbow (C)**

Join author and iris expert Kelly Norris for a tour through the magical world of bearded irises. In his comprehensive and definitive *A Guide to Bearded Irises* (Timber Press

2012), Kelly provides an accessible yet authoritative overview of these deservedly popular plants. In this lecture, he'll show you how to grow bearded irises successfully, how to use them in the garden, how to choose the best plants, and how to "create" new irises. His lecture, like his book, provides portraits of outstanding cultivars in each of the six recognized categories, including a tour of the latest releases, color breaks and hybridizing achievements. You'll be guaranteed to have an educated opinion about bearded irises when you're finished.

### **Sustainable Gardening series (C)**

Developed for programs and classes at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Kelly has a growing suite of lectures designed to teach gardeners about sustainable planting design and garden management. These are ideal for Master Gardener conferences or similar events with advanced audiences interested in specialty topics otherwise not represented above. The following topics are available for presentation in 2016 with descriptions available upon request:

- **The Joys of Fall Gardening**
- **Making Gravel Gardens**