

COLOR THAT WON'T QUIT
Three-Season Garden Plan
page 38

**5 MUST-KNOW
FALL TIPS**
page 48

This Beautiful Annual
GETS BETTER ALL SEASON!
Find out more on page 12

Garden Gate

October 2011 • Issue 101
www.GardenGateMagazine.com

How 3 Pros
Took a Backyard
from BORING
to BEAUTIFUL 

page 28

Make Gardening Easier!

■ Grow the
BEST VARIETIES
of YOUR FAVORITE
PERENNIALS page 16

■ Buy **BETTER BULBS** page 24

■ **FEED BIRDS**
the Right Way page 22

Plant **NO-FAIL**
DAZZLING
COMBOS

page 34

contents

october 2011
issue no. 101

Create a unified backyard — from bed design to plant, fabric and paint choices. Find out how on p. 28!



in every issue

- AT HOME GARDENER**
grow the best asters ever **6**
- BEFORE & AFTER**
privacy, please:
make any deck cozy **8**
- GARDEN GATE'S TOP PICKS**
11 better-than-ever
perennials **16**
- FROM THE DRAWING BOARD**
a garden in three seasons..... **38**
- CONTAINER RECIPE**
3 great ways to
top your table **42**
- NOTES FROM THE TEST GARDEN**
fall guide: what to do now! .. **48**
- EDITOR'S CHOICE**
fullmoon maple **50**

features

- Ornamental Peppers..... 12**
Keep your garden colorful from spring to fall with these long-blooming plants!
- Irresistible Sunflowers ... 14**
Which are best for containers, borders or birdfeeders? Find out about seven of our favorites.
- What Birds Want..... 22**
Want to attract the most birds to your feeders? Check out our good-better-best backyard setups.
- Need-to-Know Bulb Basics..... 24**
Buy the best spring-blooming bulbs and plant them the right way to get the best show. We have the tips to help you do both!
- 1 Garden — 3 Ways..... 28**
Create the backyard of your dreams — no matter where you live — with tips from three pros.



Secure the top of the cage with twist ties or wire.

Squirrels digging up your newly planted bulbs?

Plant in homemade wire baskets so the squirrels can't reach the bulbs!

Get more great tips like this delivered to you each week when you sign up for FREE *Garden Gate* e-notes.

www.GardenGateNotes.com



Autumn GardenScapes

Make fall your best season — design ideas, beautiful plants, easy-care tips

find these books and more at
www.GardenGateStore.com

departments

- reader tips **4**
- pest watch..... **5**
- what's new **44**
- did you know? **45**
- ask *Garden Gate* **46**
- weed watch..... **47**
- finishing touches..... **52**

ON THE COVER:

Jewels of the Garden..... 34

You don't have to be wealthy to fill your garden with rich gems this fall!

ON THE COVER It isn't too late for fabulous fall containers! Find out how to plant this one on page 37.
Photo: David C. McClure

ON THE BACK COVER Dahlias — one of the jewels in the fall garden.
Photo: Jack Coyier

WEST COAST LIVING

Regional tips you can use
in your own backyard.

1 Garden — 3 Ways

Want to make your backyard the popular gathering spot for the neighborhood? Or maybe you want a quiet secluded retreat? I asked three designers in different regions to come up with some ideas for the same 50-by-80-foot backyard. Here's a small drawing of the backyard I gave them:



Then I shared my wish list:

- A patio, deck or porch that's large enough for entertaining
- An outdoor dining area with a grill
- Space where children and pets can play
- Room for a few edibles, but not a separate vegetable garden
- A private getaway spot
- Lots of flowers and shrubs
- Maybe a fire pit and/or a water feature

Although I gave each designer the exact same information, it was fun to see how different their suggestions were. They incorporated regional styles and influences, but every design has ideas you can use. You'll also find a detailed plan for part of the design. You may need to adjust the plant choices to fit your climate, but you can create the plan no matter where you live. Enjoy! □

— Jim Childs

When it comes to spending time outdoors, what could be better than sunny Southern California weather? I asked Shellene Mueller, of Designs By Shellene, in Ramona, California, to design a garden while keeping that in mind. Here's her take on our backyard.

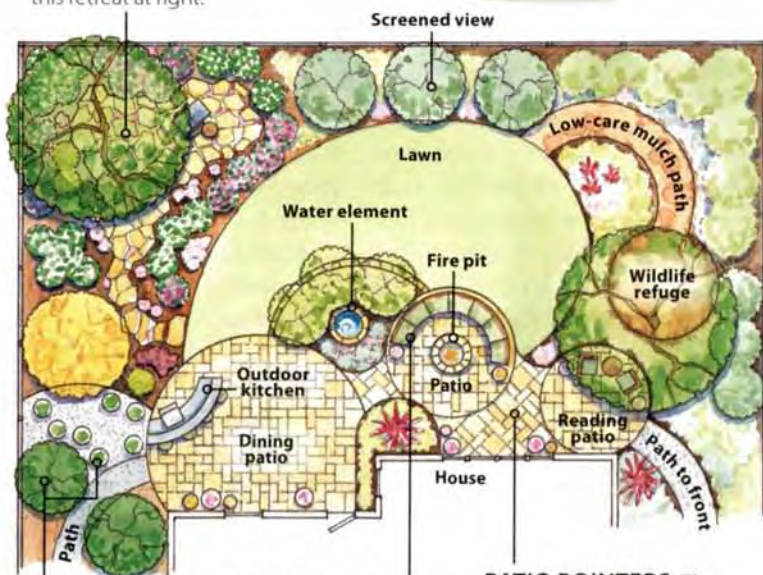
"Green" is big all over the country, but water conservation is a serious concern in California. That's why there is only a small lawn here — lawns take lots of water. The plant choices are mostly native so they won't need extra water. And porous patio surfaces let rainwater soak in between the stones so precious groundwater doesn't wash away into the sewers.

There are no jarring angles or straight edges in this design. Your eye travels leisurely over the curving lines of the lawn and patios. Just a few steps from the outdoor kitchen you'll find vegetables and herbs planted in large containers, handy for cooking. And on the other side of the yard an area filled with native plants is perfect for relaxing while you watch butterflies and birds.

In the swatches at right you'll see the calming color scheme for the furniture cushions — soft greens, grays and blues with a few touches of blue-reds to liven it up. Check out more design tips below, plus you'll find the complete design for a cozy retreat at right.

RESTFUL RETREAT

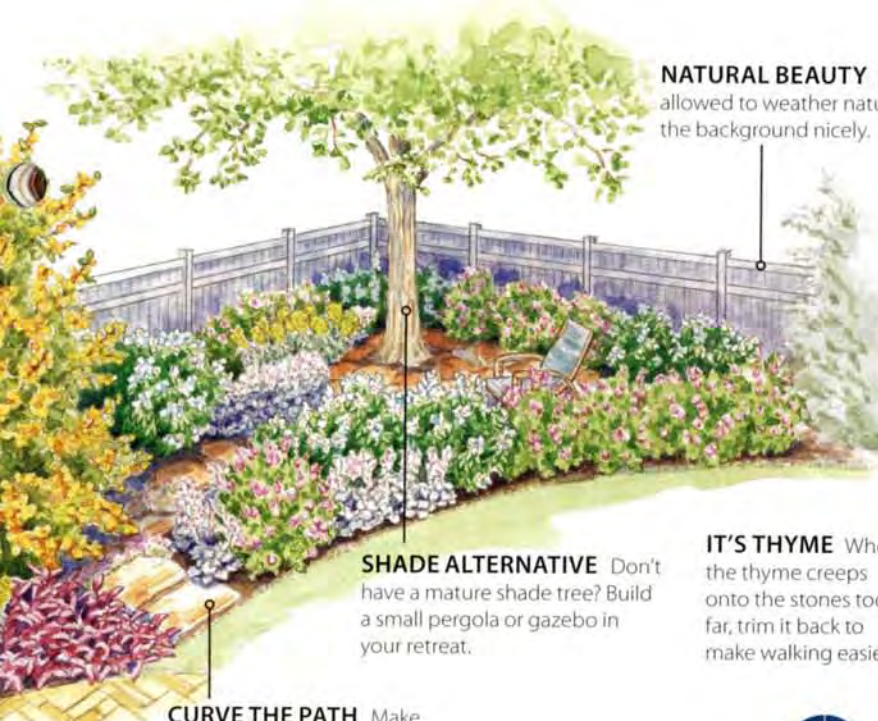
Every garden needs a spot where you can get away from daily stress. See the plan for this retreat at right.



Fruit trees, herbs, and veggies in containers

KEEP IT COMFORTABLE Lots of deep comfy cushions surround a fire pit — great for cool evenings. Not into fire pits? Place an outdoor coffee table in the center for playing games.

PATIO POINTERS The pattern in the stonework between the circular patios is turned 45 degrees. It helps define the area without the need for walls or plantings.



NATURAL BEAUTY A wood fence allowed to weather naturally fades into the background nicely.

REFUGE Let the shrubs grow tall for more privacy or clip them back occasionally to keep a view.

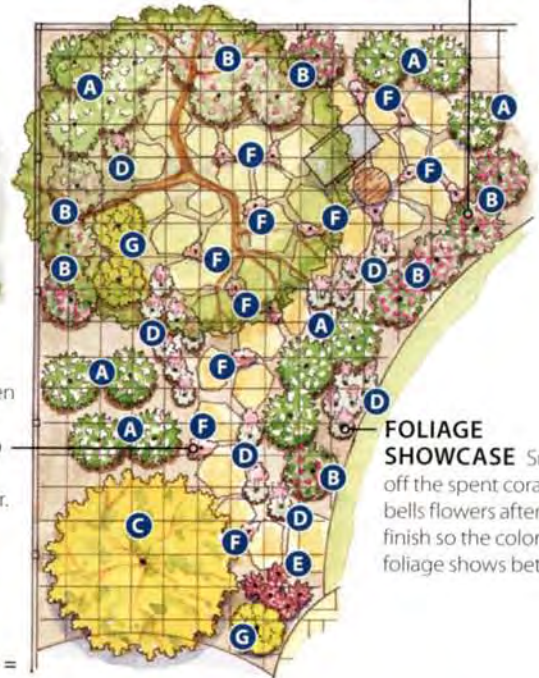
SHADE ALTERNATIVE Don't have a mature shade tree? Build a small pergola or gazebo in your retreat.

CURVE THE PATH Make the area more private by curving the path so there's not a straight line of sight into the getaway.

IT'S THYME When the thyme creeps onto the stones too far, trim it back to make walking easier.



Scale: 1 square = 1 square ft.



FOLIAGE SHOWCASE Snip off the spent coral bells flowers after they finish so the colorful foliage shows better.

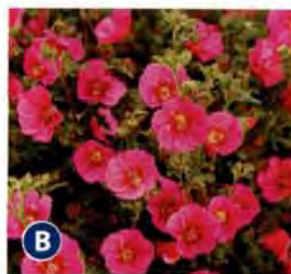
A quiet retreat

Do you dream of a secluded hideaway? A spot with lots of flowers and cool shade? Easy-care plants are a must — you don't want to have to keep thinking about watering and deadheading as you kick back. This retreat is close enough to the house that it will be used frequently but still give you a feeling of seclusion.



Bush anemone *Carpenteria californica* Evergreen shrub; white anemone flowers in spring and summer; full sun to part shade; 3 to 6 ft. tall, 3 to 7 ft. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 8 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

Number to plant: 15



Cape mallow *Anisodonta 'Elegant Lady'* Shrub; bright pink flowers nearly all year; full sun to part shade; 2 to 5 ft. tall, 3 to 5 ft. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 8 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 11 to 1

Number to plant: 13



Flannel bush *Fremontodendron californicum* Shrub; yellow flowers nearly all year; full sun; 12 to 18 ft. tall, 10 to 12 ft. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 8 to 10, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 10 to 1

Number to plant: 1



Coral bells *Heuchera sanguinea 'Geisha's Fan'* Perennial; silvery leaves, pink late-spring flowers; full sun to part shade; 9 to 18 in. tall, 15 to 18 in. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

Number to plant: 20



Spiderwort *Tradescantia pallida 'Purpurea'* Tender perennial; small pink flowers nearly all year; full sun to part shade; 6 to 12 in. tall, 15 to 24 in. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 10 to 11, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1

Number to plant: 5



Creeping thyme *Thymus serpyllum 'Pink Chintz'* Perennial; soft pink flowers in summer; full sun to part shade; 2 to 3 in. tall, spreading; cold-hardy in USDA zones 5 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

Number to plant: 15



Mediterranean spurge *Euphorbia characias wulfenii* Perennial; bright green flowers in spring; full sun to part shade; 3 to 5 ft. tall, 3 to 4 ft. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 7 to 11, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 11 to 1

Number to plant: 3

PHOTOS: Courtesy of Dancing Oaks Nursery (A); courtesy of Proven Winners® (B); courtesy of Terrapin Gardens (C); courtesy of Terra Nova® Nurseries, Inc. (D)