

# Country Living

## YOUR EVERYTHING GUIDE TO SUMMER

Terrific deals on outdoor furniture

Fun backyard party ideas

Easy ways to add color to any room

**PLUS:** An amazing \$7 wine!

**GREAT GRILL RECIPES**  
Burgers! Sides! Dessert!

Pretty, porch-friendly fabric!

This rug costs just \$49!

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Art that brings the outdoors in



## Heart of the Country

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Behind this innocent scoop of ice cream? A sweet success story.



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An easy-to-make piñata sure to leave party guests abuzz



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This menagerie of Victorian game pieces bowled us over with its charm.

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Pilot your very own houseboat for a cruise down the Erie Canal.



# Brilliant Ways to Front a Border

With graceful growth habits and dainty blooms, these petite plants deserve prime placement.

Like the opening act of a play, the first tier of a border introduces its audience to the story of the bed beyond. Which puts more than a little pressure on the plants chosen for this role. Do they entice with texture, shape, and color, while also ceding attention to the back rows? Can they successfully blur the boundary between yard and garden without encroaching upon the lawn? The short-but-sweet perennials here deliver, with subtle charms—like unusual foliage and small, fragrant flowers—that demand to be admired up close.



**Lady's Mantle**  
(*Alchemilla mollis*)  
Zones 3-8

The velvety, gray-green leaves of this 18-inch-tall plant glisten with dew in the early morning. And from late spring through early summer, its tiny chartreuse flowers wow. For best results, plant in sun or partial shade.

Nine perennial picks—including options for sun and shade, in a range of bloom times—that can fill just about any front-row seat

FULL SUN

PARTIAL SHADE

FULL SHADE

BLOOMS  
EARLY-MID  
SPRING\*



**Speedwell**

(*Veronica umbrosa* 'Georgia Blue')

Zones 4-9

Just six or so inches tall, this diminutive variety boasts loose clusters of electric-blue blooms that last until summer.



**Lungwort**

(*Pulmonaria officinalis* 'White Wings')

Zones 3-9

Silver-spotted leaves create a distinct foundation for bell-shaped white flowers that reach heights of up to a foot.



**Bugleweed**

(*Ajuga reptans* 'Black Scallop')

Zones 4-9

Known for its ground-hugging evergreen foliage, this deer-resistant beauty also sends up violet spikes.

BLOOMS  
LATE SPRING/  
EARLY  
SUMMER\*



**Pinks**

(*Dianthus gratianopolitanus* 'Bath's Pink')

Zones 3-9

The itty-bitty pink blossoms on this low-growing plant emit a delightful clove scent.



**Cranesbill**

(*Geranium sanguineum* 'Alpenglow')

Zones 4-8

This 12- to 18-inch-tall geranium produces magenta flowers and velvety foliage that turns crimson in fall.



**Foam flower**

(*Tiarella* 'Spring Symphony')

Zones 4-9

Sweet-smelling, 10-inch-high pink cones top leaves with burgundy stripes that intensify come autumn.

BLOOMS  
MID-LATE  
SUMMER\*



**Tickseed**

(*Coreopsis verticillata* 'Crème Brûlée')

Zones 5-9

The butter-yellow flowers of this feathery, relatively statuesque option (at two feet) can persist into October.



**Bleeding heart**

(*Dicentra* 'King of Hearts')

Zones 4-9

Deep-pink blooms dangle dramatically from 10- to 15-inch-tall arched stems. Deadhead to encourage new growth.



**Deadnettle**

(*Lamium maculatum* 'White Nancy')

Zones 3-9

This dense ground cover sports silvery, green-edged leaves and delicate white flowers.

\*Bloom time will vary depending on region.