

IN EVERY ISSUE: TIME-SAVING GARDEN TIPS ➔

# Garden Gate®

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## THE FALL GARDEN ISSUE

**These Flowers Save Their BEST SHOW FOR FALL!**

**Should You Clean Up Your Perennial Garden This Fall? 6 PROS WEIGH IN**

**FOUNDATION PLANTING LOOKING BLAH? Try These Tips!**

**ATTENTION-GETTING PLANTS!**

**DESIGN A GORGEOUS GARDEN One Gardener's Tips**

**WATER-SMART ADVICE That Will Save You Work**

**+ Create Fabulous Fall Containers Like This**

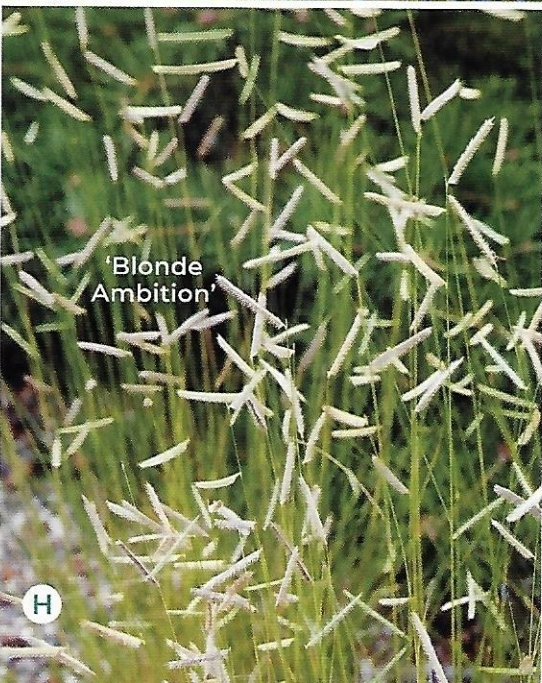
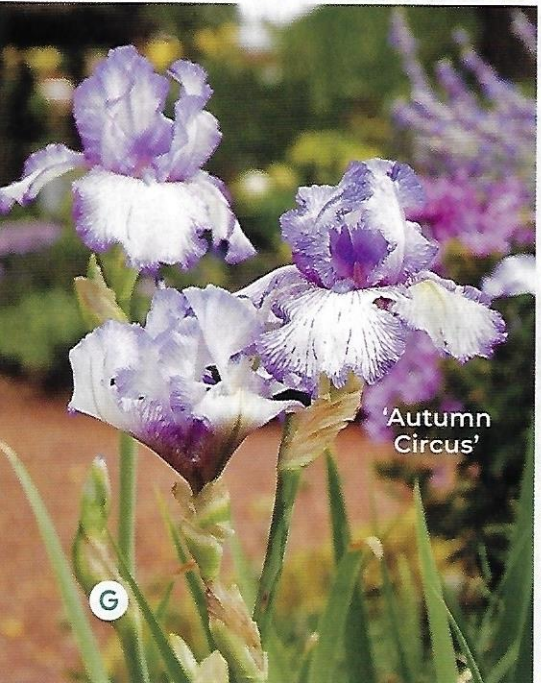
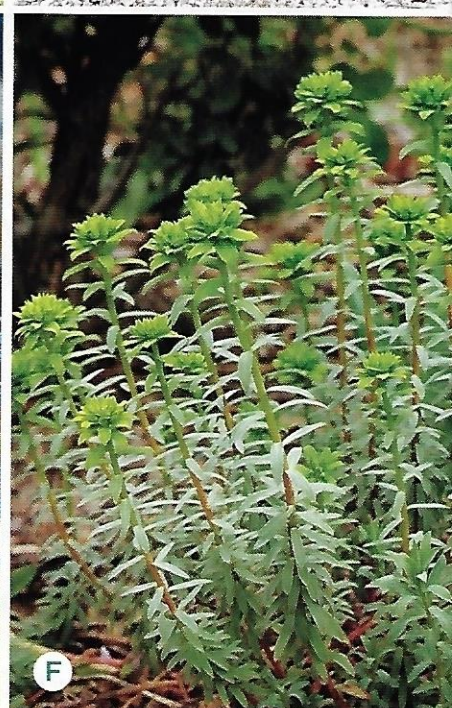
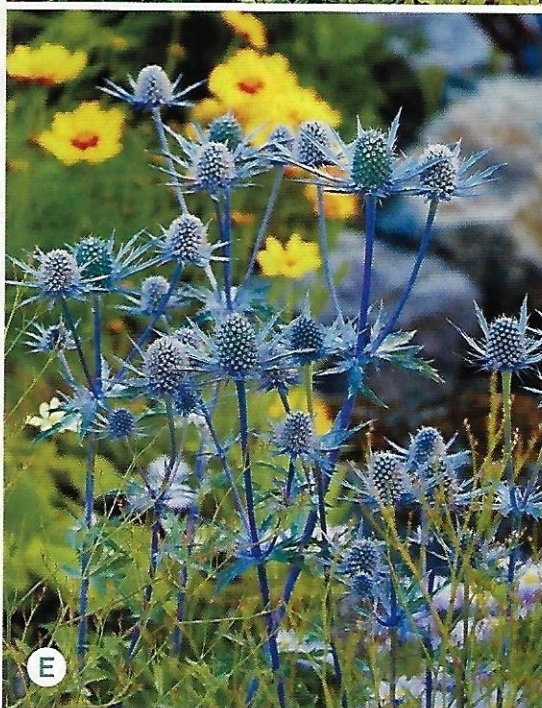
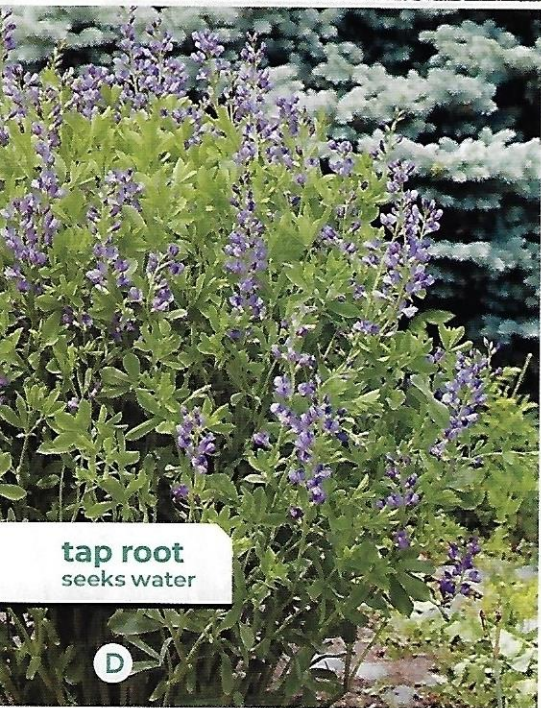
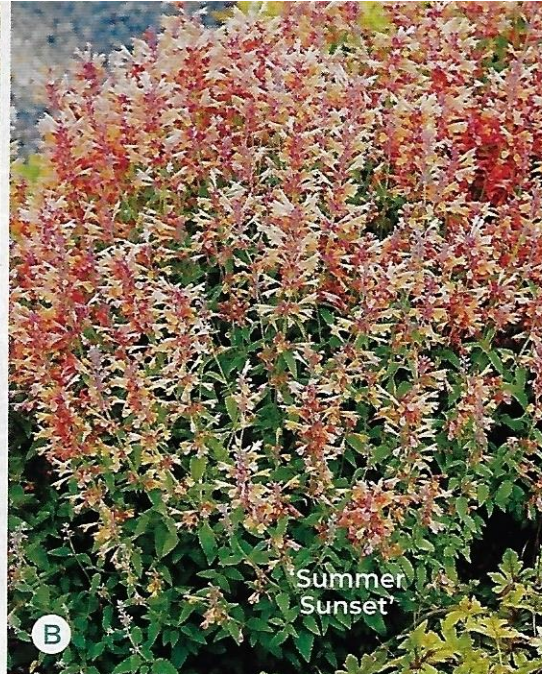
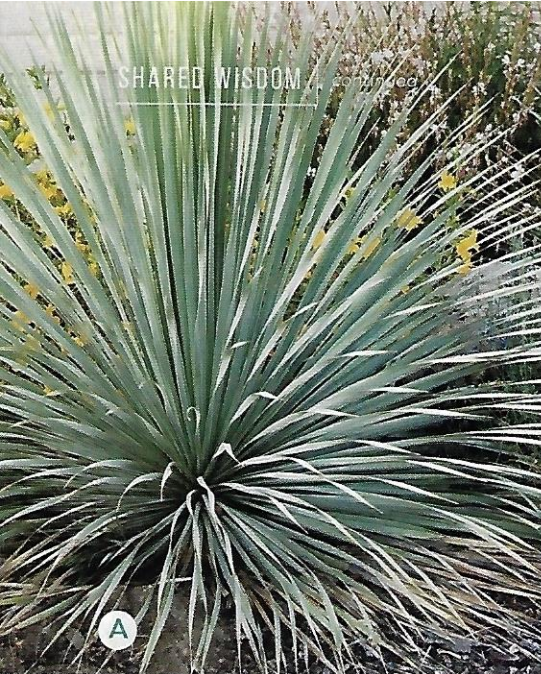
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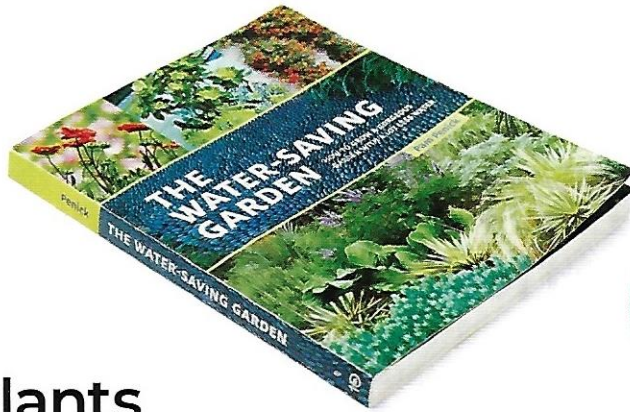
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# Grow Great Drought-Tolerant Plants

Before you start planting, take some time to become familiar with the growing conditions in your yard. Pam has found that giving plants the growing conditions they need makes a big difference in how well they can tolerate drought. Take note of sun and shade, extra dry or wet spots and what type of soil you have—sandy, clay or in between. Also, a soil test will tell you what the pH is.

**KNOW THE ZONES** Just because you have a water-wise landscape doesn't mean giving up on all your favorite moisture-loving plants. Pare them down to your absolute favorites, such as Grandma's heirloom rose or a hard-to-resist hosta, and you'll still have a drought-tolerant landscape.

Pam divides her garden and those she designs into "ripple zones," which makes watering a lot easier. Grow those favorite plants you couldn't give up closest to the house and the water source. A little further out, where it's not too far for drip irrigation

or soaker hoses to be effective, is the spot for plants that need some irrigation to stay looking good. Put the most drought-tolerant plants for your region furthest away from the house. They shouldn't need extra watering and won't have you worrying about whether or not there's rain in the forecast.

Once plants are in the ground, don't assume you can just walk away. New plants, even drought-tolerant ones, need regular watering to help them develop a strong root system. Usually about an inch of moisture a week, whether it's from rain or the hose, will get them established. After that, most plants are fine with additional watering only during long dry spells. Check out this list of Pam's favorite drought-tolerant plants and find even more in her book *The Water-Saving Garden*, above. Or check with your local extension agency or garden center to get specific suggestions for your region. 🌱

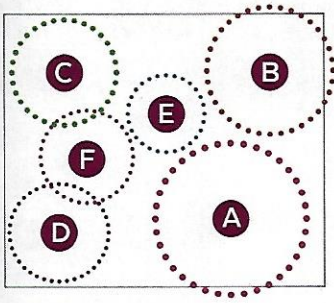
—Sherri Ribbey

## Botanical Names

Hosta  
Hosta spp.  
and hybrids  
Rose  
Rosa spp.  
and hybrids

## Pam's Palette of Drought-Tolerant Plants

- A Beaked yucca** *Yucca rostrata*  
Perennial; white flowers on 2- to 3-ft. stems in late spring to early summer; waxy blue-gray leaves save water; develops a treelike trunk over time; full sun; well-drained soil; 6 to 12 ft. tall, 4 to 6 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 5 to 10
- B Agastache** *Agastache* spp. and hybrids  
Perennial; pink, red, orange, violet or yellow flower spikes midsummer to fall; small leaves save water; full sun to part shade; well-drained soil; 16 to 48 in. tall, 10 to 48 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9
- C Lamb's ear** *Stachys byzantina*  
Perennial; purple flowers in early summer; fuzzy hairs trap moisture on silvery leaves; full sun; well-drained to clay soil; 8 to 12 in. tall, 12 to 18 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 8
- D False indigo** *Baptisia australis*  
Perennial; blue-purple flowers in late spring; a tap root seeks out water deep in the soil; full sun to part shade; well-drained to clay soil; 3 to 4 ft. tall and wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9
- E Sea holly** *Eryngium* spp. and hybrids  
Perennial; silver-blue to blue star-shaped flowers in midsummer to fall; a tap root seeks out water deep in the soil; full sun; well-drained soil; 12 to 36 in. tall, 10 to 24 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9
- F Euphorbia** *Euphorbia rigida*  
Perennial; green flowers with yellow bracts in early spring to early summer; small fleshy leaves save water; full sun; well-drained soil; 1 to 2 ft. tall, 2 to 3 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 7 to 10
- G Bearded iris** *Iris* hybrids  
Perennial; all colors in late spring to early summer; water-saving rhizome; full sun; well-drained soil; 2 to 3 ft. tall, 1 to 2 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 10
- H Blue grama grass** *Bouteloua gracilis*  
Perennial; small chartreuse flowers fade to tan in summer to fall; slender leaves conserve water; full sun; well-drained soil; 2 to 3 ft. tall and wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9
- I Arizona cypress** *Cupressus arizonica glabra*  
Tree; small silver-blue scales (instead of leaves) conserve water; full sun; well-drained; 20 to 30 ft. tall, 10 to 15 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 7 to 10



## Totally Terrific Trough

Trough or hypertufa planters are lightweight yet durable and make perfect little container gardens that only get better with age as they develop their own natural patina. This sun-loving combination can be enjoyed summer through fall with minimal maintenance beyond regular watering. The 'Red Threads' alternanthera just needs to be clipped back occasionally to keep the plant compact (it can be brought inside in winter and grown as a houseplant). And it is only necessary to cut the dusty miller back if it becomes leggy. Keep an eye out for Japanese beetles on the miniature rose and be sure to remove them by hand (they can be discarded in a pail of soapy water).

### PLANT LIST (number to plant)

- A Miniature rose  
*Rosa hybrid* (1)

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- B Alternanthera  
*Alternanthera brasiliana* 'Red Threads' (1)

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- C Umbrella plant  
*Cyperus involucratus* (1)

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- D Coral bells  
*Heuchera* 'Glitter' (1)

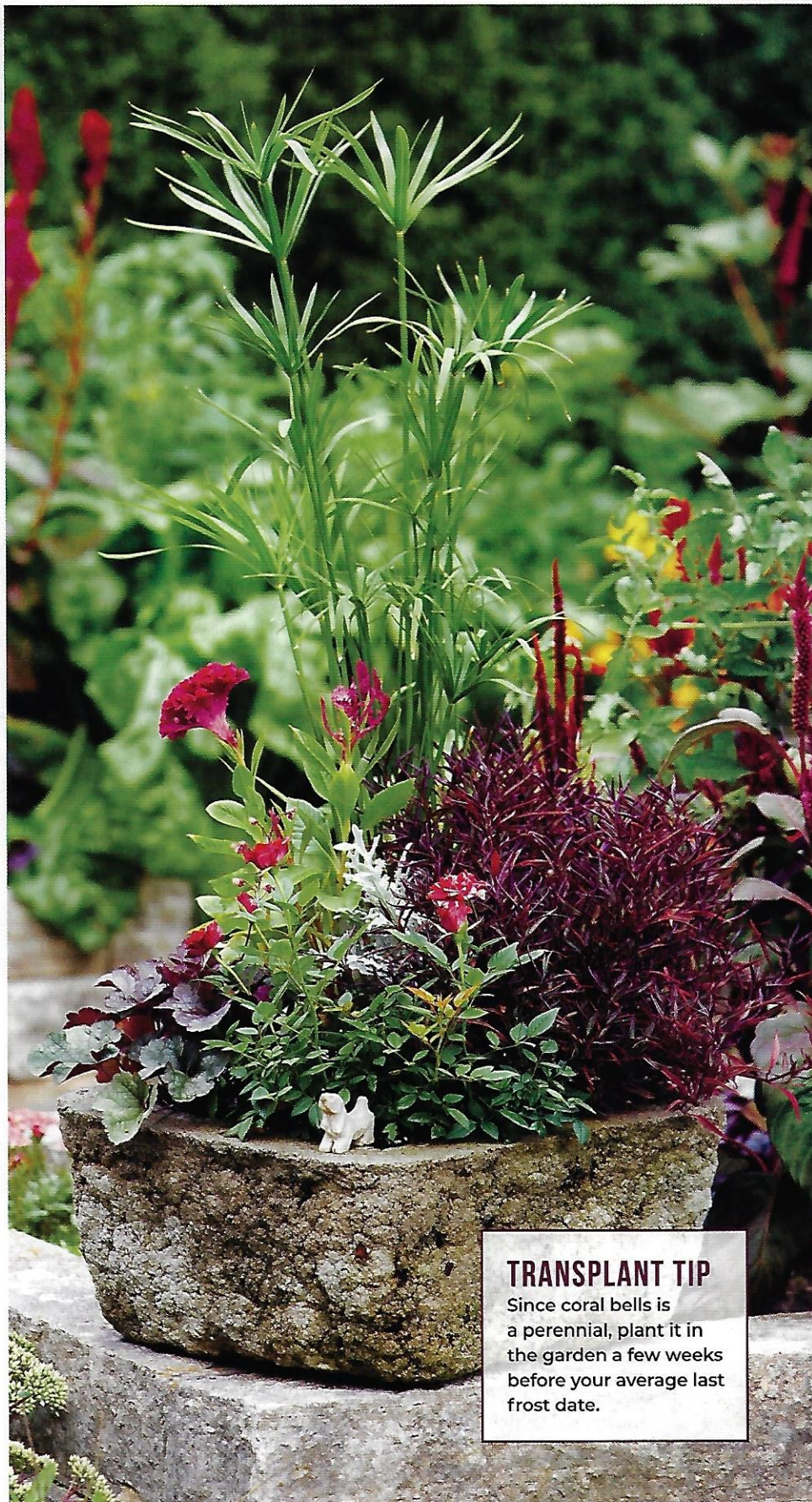
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- E Dusty miller  
*Senecio cineraria* (1)

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- F Cockscomb  
*Celosia argentea cristata* 'Tornado Red' (1)

Container is 11 inches square



**TRANSPLANT TIP**  
Since coral bells is a perennial, plant it in the garden a few weeks before your average last frost date.