

plant them and forget them

10 EASY PERENNIALS

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make your garden easier —
TIME-SAVING TIPS
You Can Use THIS YEAR! page 26

Garden Gate

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Hummingbird Magnets Bright Colors, Easy-Care Plants

— Your Garden Needs Salvias!

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'Caradonna'
Salvia

Annuals that BURST WITH BLOOMS SPRING TO FROST

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PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD Tips for a More Colorful Front Yard

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PRUNE LIKE A PRO! How to Make Your Trees and Shrubs Look Better Every Year

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Have a spot you don't know what to do with? Grow these tough and beautiful flowering ground covers.

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7 Stunning Salvias **14**

Whether you have sun or shade, there's sure to be one of these colorful flowers for your garden.

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Use our 5 time-saving tips to shorten your to-do list and maximize your free time.

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With our easy-to-follow photos and instructions, a few basic tools and a little time, your garden will be the envy of the neighborhood.

Spring Curb Appeal **32**

Show off this fresh and exciting season in a front yard filled with spring-blooming plants.



To find more tips, plans and step-by-step instructions, look for these online exclusives on our Web site.

www.GardenGateMagazine.com

- Find out which shrubs you can (and can't) prune in our **list**.
- Not sure how to figure the right measurements for your steps? Our **calculator** can help!



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ON THE COVER: Find out how to keep your 'Caradonna' salvia blooming longer on page 14. Photo: David C. McClure

ON THE BACK COVER: 'Comtesse de Bouchaud' clematis blooms in late spring. Photo: Jack Coyier

hummingbird favorites

The tree in the front yard on page 37 is great for offering this sunny garden some cooling shade during the hottest part of the day. But the yard still gets plenty of sun to let these plants grow and bloom vigorously.

In addition to having beautiful blooms, these plants are very easy care. The main task is deadheading the faded blooms of the red hot poker, starflower and penstemon. And though it won't promote more flowering, snap off the faded daylily blooms to tidy up the plant. Once the bee balm's flowering finishes, if you spot powdery mildew, cut back the plant to about 6 inches tall or to the fresh foliage. 'Ruby Spice' summersweet's casual-looking habit and fragrant blooms, like the other plants in this garden, will provide a lot of flower power without needing a lot of man (or woman) power. □

— Deborah Gruca



A

Trumpet honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens*

TYPE Perennial vine

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Very showy, long trumpet-shaped orange-red blooms in spring to summer; oval blue-green leaves; red berries in fall are attractive to birds; 6 to 20 ft. tall, 3 to 5 ft. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; vine trains easily onto an arbor or trellis; cold zones 4 to 9, heat zones 9 to 1



E

Butterfly weed *Asclepias tuberosa*

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Orange summer flowers followed by attractive seed pods; 1 to 3 ft. tall, 1 to 2 ft. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; moist, well-drained soil; reseeds; attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds; cold zones 3 to 9, heat zones 9 to 1



F

Coral bells *Heuchera* 'Purple Petticoats'

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Tan or cream flowers in late spring; frilly dark purple foliage; 12 to 18 in. tall, 18 to 24 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Part shade; moist, well-drained soil; apply a 2- to 3-in. layer of mulch after ground freezes to prevent roots from heaving; evergreen in warmer zones; cold zones 4 to 9, heat zones 9 to 1



G

Nasturtium *Tropaeolum majus* 'Vesuvius'

TYPE Annual

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Orange blooms from late spring to frost; medium green foliage; 10 to 12 in. tall and wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; keep moist during growing season; easy to direct-sow seeds outdoors after danger of frost is past; does best in poor, infertile soil; annual, heat zones 12 to 1



Daylily *Hemerocallis* 'Chicago Apache'

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Scarlet red blooms in summer; 24 to 30 in. tall and wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; prefers moist, well-drained soil, but is tolerant of clay soil; rabbit-resistant; divide clumps every three to four years for the most blooms; cold zones 3 to 9, heat zones 9 to 1



Starflower *Pentas lanceolata* 'Butterfly White'

TYPE Tender perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE White star-shaped blooms from summer to frost; 12 to 22 in. tall, 10 to 18 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; moist, well-drained soil; very heat-tolerant with regular moisture; cold zones 10 to 11, heat zones 12 to 1



Summersweet *Clethra alnifolia* 'Ruby Spice'

TYPE Shrub

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Fragrant pink blooms from summer to early fall; glossy green foliage turns yellow in fall; 3 to 6 ft. tall, 3 to 5 ft. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; prefers moist, well-drained soil, but tolerates clay soils; cold zones 3 to 9, heat zones 9 to 1



Pineleaf penstemon *Penstemon pinifolius*

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Orange-red tubular blooms from late spring to summer; 12 to 15 in. tall, 15 to 18 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; well-drained soil and regular moisture; reseeds — deadhead the faded flowers if you don't want lots of seedlings; cold zones 4 to 9, heat zones 9 to 1



Red hot poker *Kniphofia* 'Flamenco'

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Orange spikes in early to midsummer; 30 to 36 in. tall, 15 to 18 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; rich, well-drained soil; cut faded flower spikes to encourage rebloom; leave dead foliage for winter protection; cut back plant to 3 in. tall in spring; cold zones 5 to 9, heat zones 9 to 1



Bee balm *Monarda* 'Jacob Cline'

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Bright red flowers in summer; 3 to 4 ft. tall, 2 to 3 ft. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; moist, well-drained soil; cut back after flowering finishes if mildew occurs; divide every two to three years in spring; cold zones 4 to 9, heat zones 9 to 1