S-CONTROLLIVING IN THE WEST

Spring-fresh Salads Salads Delicious recipes from your garden

EASY AND IMPRESSIVE Greens with grapefruit and flowers 9.84

Hot

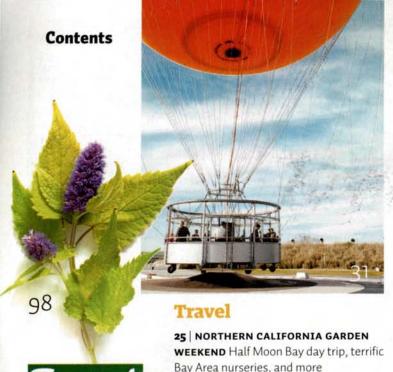
25 new plants we love

SIMPLE PLEASURES GROW YOUR OWN HERBAL TEAS P. 98

secrets to beautiful backyards

APRIL 2011

Sunset.com



ON OUR COVER

Fava leaves replace the usual spinach or lettuce in this deliciously fresh spring salad (see page 84). Photograph by Iain Bagwell; food styling by Kevin Crafts; prop styling by Emma Star Jensen



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On our radar



The botanical Lady Gaga

Over-the-top, theatrical, and ironic: Yes. Subtle? Not exactly.



FLOWERS

Incrediball'

hydrangea
White flower clusters
so enormous (a foot
wide!), they're almost
comical. And like
Gaga, held up by very
sturdy stems. Sunset

climate zones A3; 1-21.



'Gum Drop'

FULL SUN

Echinacea
Nothing modest
about this coneflower. Except for
a miniskirt of tiny
pink petals, it's all
look-at-me core.
Zones A2, A3; 1-24.



Fit for Marie Antoinette

Frilly, floaty, fanciful, and feminine. A total embrace of the soft side.



Sun Spun Yellow petunia

Shaped like a twirly skirt in the sunny color of optimism. Innocent and idealistic. All zones as an annual.



'Wendy's Wish'

Jewel-like buds, seemingly always in bloom, with petals like pink petticoats and dainty stems. Zones 14-24.



Bring on the Bollywood

Spicy, jewel-toned, gilded, and otherwise adorned. Jai Ho!



Million Bells Cherry Pink Calibrachoa

The saturation level in these petals rivals that of the best saris. A color you'd like draped around you. Zones 8, 9, 14-24. As an annual: zones 2-7, 10-13



'Flame Thrower'

A coneflower that looks like it swirled its way out of a train-station dance number. The red centers resemble bindi beauty marks. Zones A2, A3; 1-24.



Black Swan, baby

Gothic, brooding, mysterious, and definitely dark. Maybe even dangerous.



'Pinstripe' petunia

White streaks dissolving into velvety black petals like shooting stars disappearing in dark skies. All zones as an annual.



Tropicanna Black canna

This exotic canna has leaves so dark, you'll wonder how it photosynthesizes. Sinister, to say the least. Zones 6–9, 12–24; H1, H2; or dig and store.



Fresh off last week's Glee

Exuberant exhibitionism paired with wholesome innocence—just like our favorite show.



'Hot Lava'

Knockout color, simple bold shape, and stems as strong as a cheerleader's legs. Center stage only, please. Zones A2, A3; 1-24.



Big Bang Redshift' Coreobsis

More modest than some of its fellow cast members, but showy in its own quiet way. A sweet little explosion of color. Zones 1–24.



PART SHADE



TIGHT SPACE



FOLIAGE



Gator aloe

An unusually bold pattern for such a small plant. Like the pint-size diva herself, it's proof that drama doesn't depend on size.

Zones 8, 9, 12-24.



Techno Blue lobelia

A blue so intense, it feels hot rather than cool. A prolific bloomer and a real show-off. All zones.



Little Shark agave

Perfect symmetry and high drama with black-outlined leaves. And check out those spines. Zones 4-24.



'Fireworks' fountain grass

The girliest of grasses: Predominantly pink, billowy, and, in summer, it dresses up with tassels. Zones 8-24; H1, H2.



Superbells Blackberry Punch Calibrachoa

A flower with the flared shape and rich colors of the finest haute couture gown. Zones 8, 9, 14–24. As an annual: zones 2–7, 10–13.



'Dark Towers'
Penstemon

Blackish red foliage topped with baby pink flowers—a romantic pairing of radical and sweet. Zones 6-9, 14-24. As an annual: all



'Lemon Fizz'

A sizzling chartreuse that we'd love to see in a bolt of silk. The every-which-way foliage is fun too. Zones 2-24; H1, H2.



Lunacy Orange marigold

As intricate as a henna tattoo. The searing orange color and strong aromatic scent make it especially exotic. All zones as an annual.



'Belinda's Find' red hook sedge

Red sedge is already extravagant. But add some twists and turns and you've got a real melodrama. Zones 4-6, 15-17.



Fire and Ice Echeveria

Pale, pale foliage that looks even more so thanks to its bloodred edges. Ethereal or ominous, you decide. Otherworldy either way. Zones 8, 9, 12-24.



'Burgundy Ice'
Dyckia

Dark red blades and sharp white teeth—just the right amount of menace. Zones 4-24.



'Mojito' elephant's ear

A heart-of-darkness tropical plant. Inky splotches across its mammoth leaves give this new elephant's ear a gothic sort of glamour. Zones 12, 16-24; H1, H2.



'Ascot Rainbow'
Euphorbia

Looks as if it might burst into song. And when it blooms, you'll swear it has—the flower shares the same three colors of the leaves. Zones 3–24.



'Campfire' Crassula

Full of juice and raring to go. That's the impression these propeller-shaped leaves create—especially in sizzling red and lime. Zones 8, 9, 12-24.



'Electra' coral bells

Cayenne red veins streaking across saffron yellow leaves. Imagine this spicing up a bland patch of shade. Zones 1-9, 14-24. ■