

midwestliving.com

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# Midwest Living

*Sweet summer*

Best B&Bs in city & country

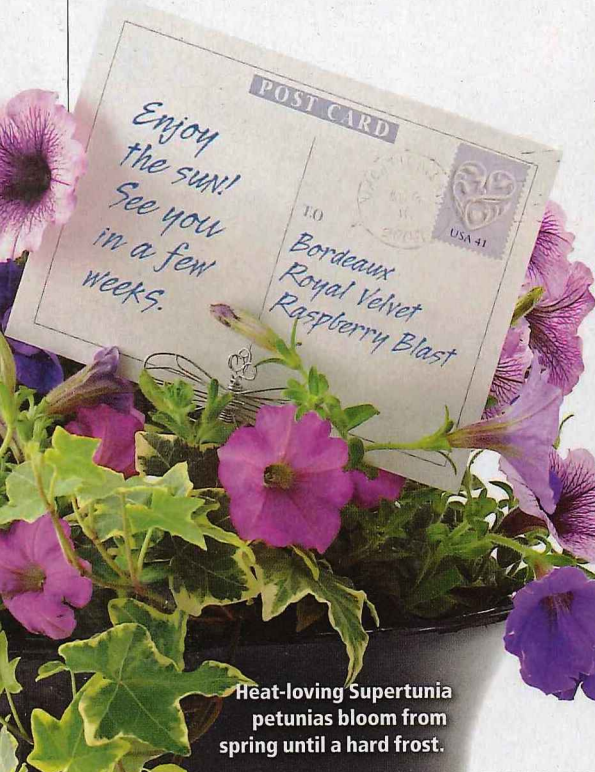
Fresh new dishes: pizza, BBQ & honey

Recipe contest winners



## Bring the heat

These blooms can handle it! Each adds brilliant color to your garden without a lot of maintenance. Once plants are established, they require very little watering—so you'll have more time to focus on other things during the busy summer season!



Heat-loving *Supertunia* petunias bloom from spring until a hard frost.



**V 'DALLAS RED' LANTANA** An ultratough, sun-loving annual, it "flowers profusely, and the saturated color is lovely," says Chicago landscape designer Rinda West.



**^ 'WALKER'S LOW' CATMINT** This perennial blooms virtually all season, says Melinda Myers, Wisconsin horticulturist, author and TV/radio host. Bees and butterflies love it.



**^ 'ANGELMIST LAVENDER' SUMMER SNAPDRAGON** An annual with orchidlike flowers, it grows easily in wet or dry soil. No deadheading required.



**V 'STRAWBERRY SEDUCTION' YARROW** Drought-tolerant, this colorful perennial attracts birds and butterflies, but resists deer and rabbits. Deadhead for best blooms.



**^ 'BUTTERFLY BLUSH' PENTAS** This annual performs best in full sun; it attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Deadhead for repeat blooming.



**^ 'QIS PURPLE' GLOBE AMARANTH** Always in bloom, this old-fashioned annual is great for dried arrangements, says Lynn Loughary, horticulturist at Kansas State University.

## DROP THE BALL

The lazy gardener will love regional Seed Bombs, wildflower pods made of seeds, fertilizer and red clay. Toss balls on the ground (no digging needed) and wait for rain to break them apart. Guerrilla gardeners in the 1970s used the same technique to brighten inner cities. Midwest pods include purple coneflower, prairie aster and wild larkspur; \$7 for a bag of five balls. Expect plants in 4–6 weeks. By Cincinnati design studio VisualLingual ([visualingual.etsy.com](http://visualingual.etsy.com)).



## Planting a veggie garden?

North-to-south rows generally give plants the best light, but not always. Tall crops should be to the north, so they don't shade their shorter neighbors. On sloped ground, plant cross-slope to control erosion. ■

University of Illinois Extension