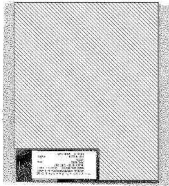




Seastacks in the surf near Bandon, Oregon p. 56



DESIGN

Endless summer

Savor the season's last golden days in your own garden room.

BY KATHLEEN N. BRENZEL

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELE LEE WILLSON

"EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS GARDEN is magical," says designer Vera Gates of Liz and Chris Dressel's hillside hideaway in Woodside, California. "The light is magical. So are the plantings around the native oak." Thoughts of yard work won't break the spell here: These plants are all low-water and easy-care. A decomposed-granite patio means no lawn to mow. And the chairs around the portable firepit? Bewitching. "Guests just want to recline in them and enjoy the view. No one ever wants to leave."

DESIGN Vera Gates and Scott Yarnell, Arterra Landscape Architects, San Francisco (arterralp.com) ■

1. Santa Barbara daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*)
2. Mexican feather grass (*Stipa tenuissima*)
3. French lavender (*Lavandula dentata*)
4. Beard tongue (*Pentstemon*)
5. Butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*)
6. New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*)
7. Hedge lavender (*L. x intermedia 'Grasso'*)
8. *Carex divulsa* (sold as *C. tumulicola*)
9. Common thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)







GARDEN CHECKLIST

September

Your Mountain guide

IDEA WE LOVE RECYCLED WALKWAY

We're crazy about this path—the collage-like framework; the artistic mix of materials, which include tumbled glass, wine corks, and mini metal canisters

set on end; and the fact that it's made entirely of materials that would otherwise have wound up in the landfill. Created by Matthew Levesque in *Sunset's* test garden, the paving is softened by plants—including (counterclockwise from lower

right) lamb's ears, gaura, helenium 'Mardi Gras', 'Blond Ambition' blue grama grass, and 'Orange Nectar' agastache—that spill over the edges.

—JULIE CHAI
 DESIGN Matthew Levesque, Alameda, CA (matthewlevesque.com)



MUST-HAVE LOW-GROWING COLOR

Always the reliable groundcover, *Iberis* is typically known as a pure white bloomer. But new 'Absolutely Amethyst' steps it up with rich pinkish purple flowers. Add that it tolerates drought and attracts butterflies, and you have one great plant. It reaches 10 to 12 inches tall and wide; plant it in a sunny spot now for an awesome display next spring. Buy from your local nursery or online from *Proven Winners* (provenwinners.com).

To-do list

- For instant color, plant fall-blooming asters, chrysanthemums, and violas.
- Sow seeds of lettuce, spinach, other salad greens, and radishes for a late-autumn harvest.
- Take cuttings of your favorite coleus, place in water until roots form, then pot them up to overwinter in a sunny window.
- Dig up overcrowded clumps of perennials, cut or pull the roots apart into sections, and replant the healthiest clumps. Give extras away to friends.
- Harvest beans, peppers, eggplant, summer squash, and tomatoes before the first frost.
- If light to moderate frost is predicted, cover tender annuals and vegetables with a frost blanket.
- After frost kills the tops of summer bulbs, dig them up and store in a cool, dry place over the winter.
- Plant spring bulbs anytime before the ground freezes, then water well.

—MARCIA TATROE

What zone are you?

Sunset climate zones

- 1A
- 1B
- 2
- 3
- 10



CHOOSE PLANTS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR ZONE: sunset.com/plantfinder

KIMBERLEY NAVABPOUR (2)