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# Garden ideas

Plant the seeds for success in your garden with advice and insights from these 10 leading landscape designers...

PRODUCED BY ELIZABETH WILSON



**RUTH CZERMAK**  
Principal  
landscape architect  
Rozanica Traditions



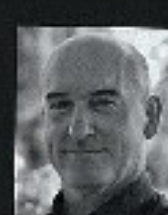
**LINDA GREEN**  
Principal  
Hidcote Landscapes



**WENDY CLARKE**  
Principal designer  
Dirtscape Dreaming



**JOANNE GREEN**  
Landscape designer  
Joanne Green  
Landscape



**WES FLEMING**  
Plantman  
Fleming's Nurseries



**PHILIP JOHNSON**  
Creative director  
Phillip Johnson  
Design



**ARNO KING**  
Landscape architect  
& associate director,  
Dircke Richards



**NADIA MATIJEVIC**  
Landscape designer  
Adelaide Garden  
Design



**ALAN FISHER**  
Landscape designer  
Garrrens Australia



**STEVEN CLEGG**  
Landscape architect  
Steven Clegg  
Design



## TERRIFIC TREES

They're majestic, shading and space-defining. Whatever your garden's size, there's a tree for you.

**1** "Trees are such an important part of a garden's framework and in medium and large gardens, they create natural focal points. When choosing one, be sure to consider its mature size – the size it will achieve in 20 years." – Ruth Czernek

### 2 PERFECT PEAR

Pyrus (ornamental pear) is among the hardiest and easiest to grow of all trees. They'll grow almost anywhere in Australia, and can be used for different landscaping purposes. When mature, they are lovely shade trees (as pictured); one of my favourites is the *Pyrus calleryana* 'Capital', which is a great tree to use for screening. It grows to about 10m high, so if you plant a row of them 1.5–2m apart, 1m in from the fence, they can even screen out a neighbouring two-storey house." – Wes Fleming

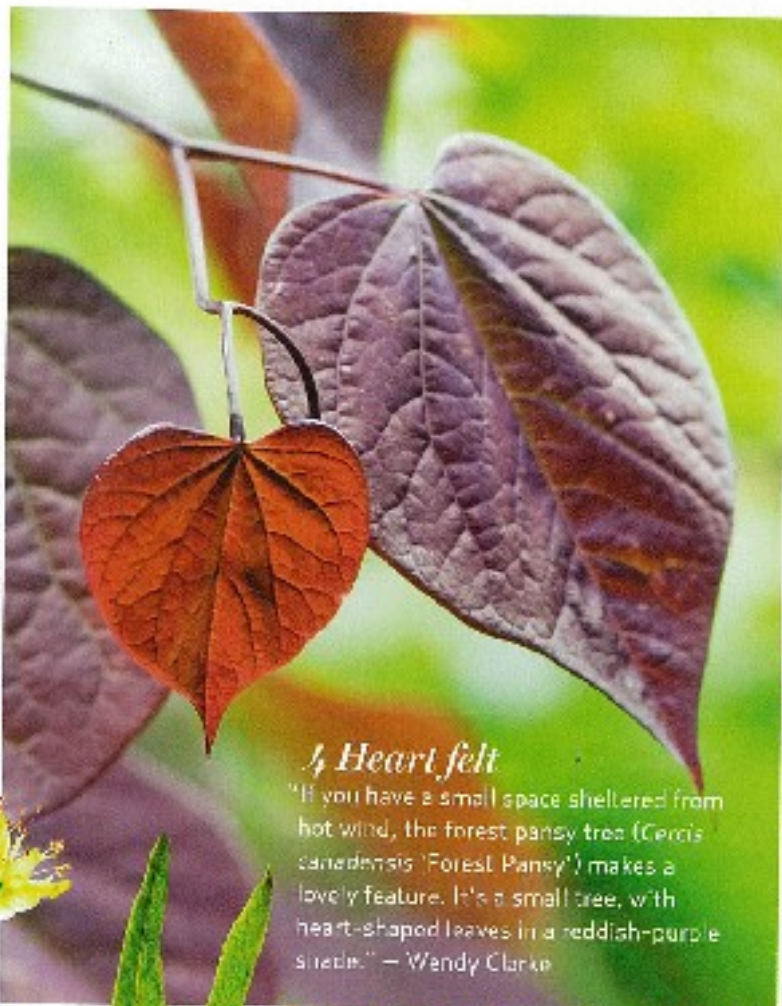
### 3 CRISP & FRESH

For cooler areas, such as the Adelaide Hills in SA, or the NSW Southern Highlands, small-leaf linden (*Tilia cordata*, below), is a favourite. A medium-large tree, it has deep-green, heart-shaped foliage that turns yellow in autumn, and fragrant, pandorous clusters of cream flowers in early summer." – Nadia Matijevic



### 4 Heart felt

"If you have a small space sheltered from hot wind, the forest pansy tree (*Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy') makes a lovely feature. It's a small tree, with heart-shaped leaves in a reddish-purple shade." – Wendy Clarke



### 5 AUTUMN SHOW

"The two best trees for autumn colour are maple and liquidambar. Liquidambar is best suited to large gardens in temperate climates. For compact spaces, choose a maple such as the *Acer palmatum* (Japanese maple, below). There are varieties to suit most locations, but they colour best in cooler areas." – RC



**6** "A beautiful shade tree for a medium-size garden in a temperate zone such as Sydney is *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple), which has lovely autumn colour. If you live in Perth, red maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Autumn Blaze', above), has stunning seasonal colour and is drought tolerant." – wf

### 7 Quick rewards

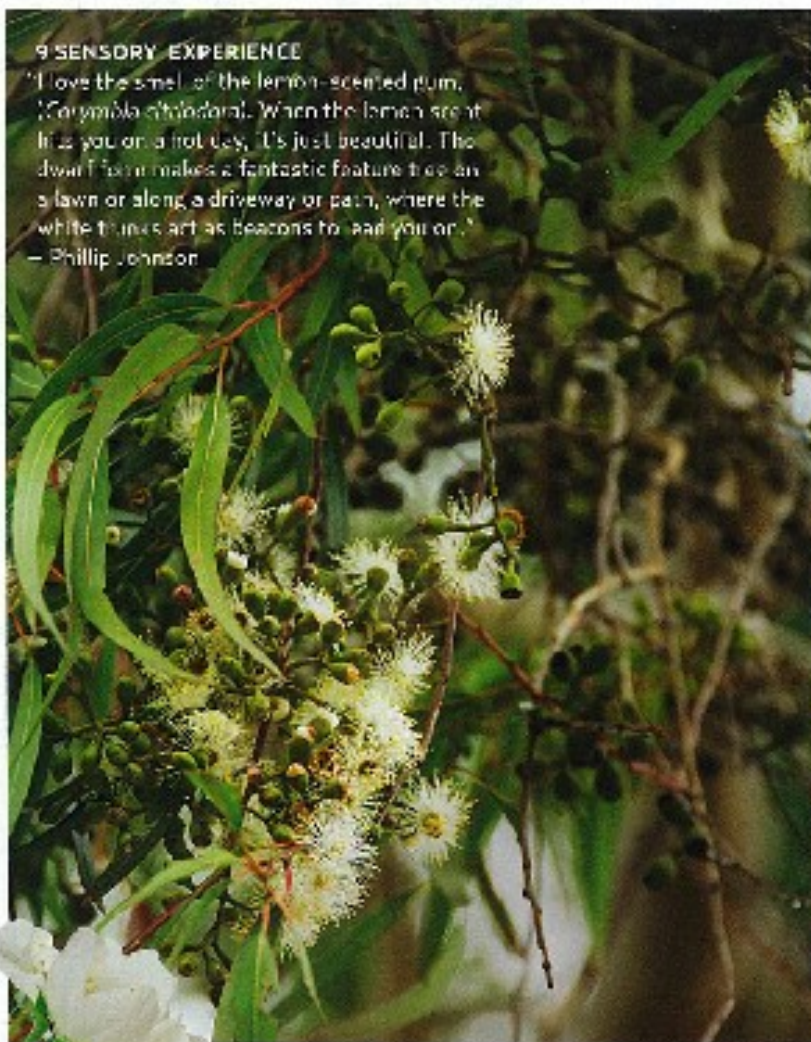
"For plants to enjoy in the short term, go for fast-growing, drought-tolerant species such as *Acer negundo* 'Sensation' (Box elder maple, above)." – RC





9 SENSORY EXPERIENCE

"I love the smell of the lemon-scented gum, *Corymbia citriodora*. When the limes are at their peak, it's just beautiful. The dwarf form makes a fantastic feature tree on a lawn or along a driveway or path, where the white flowers act as beacons to lead you on." — Phillip Johnson



8 PATIENCE PAYS

"If you have a small garden and you're patient, the slow-growing crabapple (*Malus triflora*), is a lovely tree. It has a pyramid-shaped crown ideal for a formal avenue, or it can be unbordered, and the leaves turn red in autumn." — NM. Another beautiful variety is the tea crabapple (*Malus bupleuifolia*), pictured below.



10 EVENING PERFORMER

"A stunning centrepiece for a medium-sized garden is the Lagerstroemia 'Natchez' (white crepe myrtle, below). It has white flowers from summer to autumn, which gives the tree real presence at night, lightening the garden. When mature, the trees have attractive exfoliating bark too." — Steven Cogg



12 Cool customers

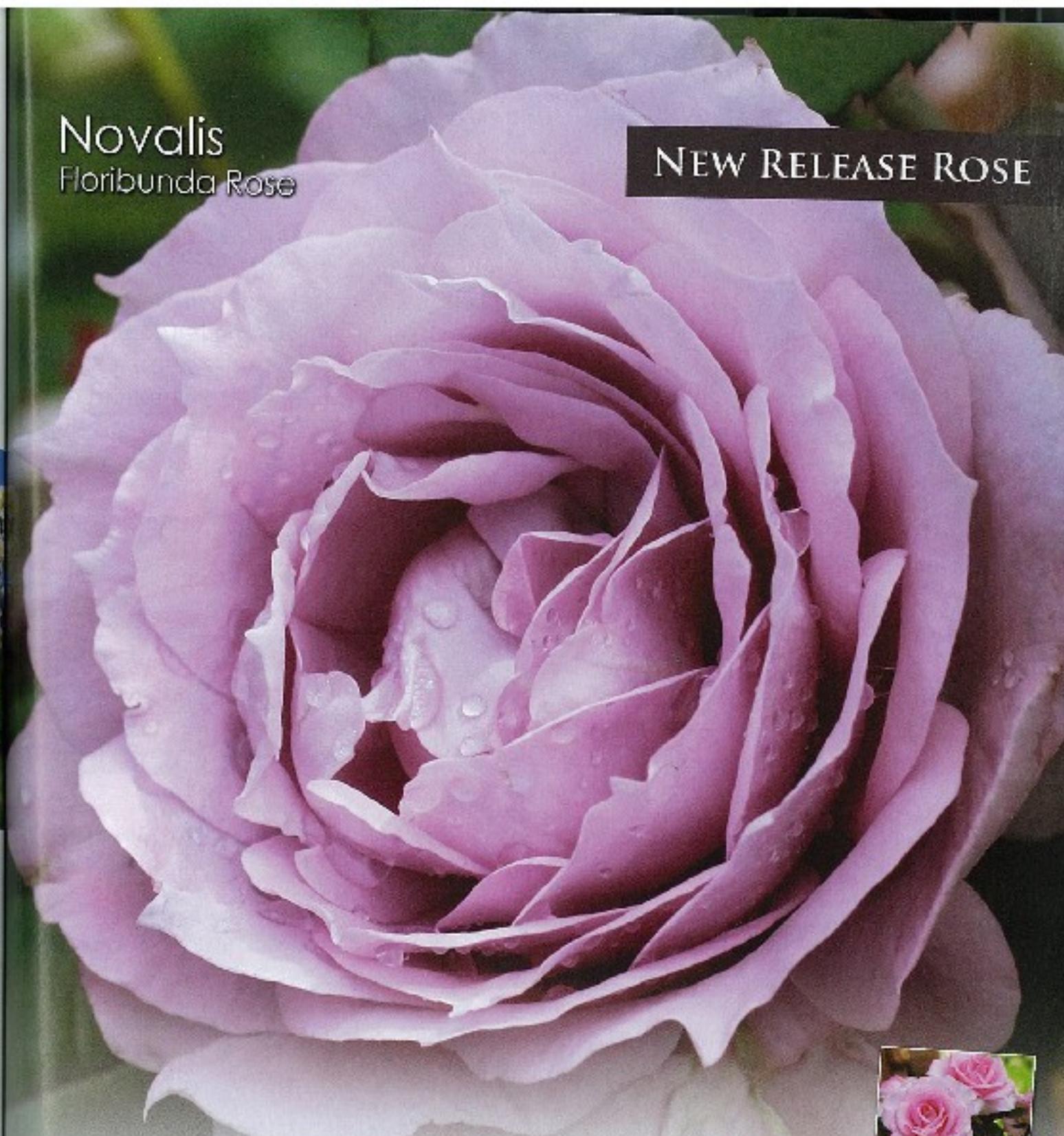
"For a large garden in a cooler climate, try *Fagus sylvatica* 'purpurea' (purple beech, above). They're magnificent — but be prepared: they're slow growers." — WF

"I've always said I didn't have a favourite tree, but I have one now — *Betula jacquemontii* (Himalayan birch, above middle). It's fast growing and has the whitest trunk. And it's the most adaptable of the birch family, handling heat well. Everyone should put 10 of them in their garden." — WF



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## NATIVE KNOW-HOW

Give your garden a truly Australian feel with a thoughtful selection of sculptural, colourful and hardy natives.



**13** "I have fallen in love with *Brachychiton*s. There are three species I recommend – *Acerfolius* (*Illawarra flame tree*), *Populneus* (*Kurrajong tree*) and *Rupestris* (*Queensland bottle tree*, pictured). I love their shape and their foliage, and they're quite controlled in terms of size." – WF

**14** "If I'm designing a native garden, I always include *Xanthorrhoea* (grass trees). Their architectural shape brings drama to a garden. They also look great in minimalist designs paired with vertical timber sleepers, weathered steel or local stone." – LINDA GREEN



### 15 AUSSIE COMBO

"I have a favourite medley: *Xanthorrhoea* (grass tree); *Beaumontia virgata* dwarf (twiggy heath-myrtle); *Leptospermum laevigatum* (coastal tea tree); *Hibbertia scandens* (Guinea gold vine, pictured left); *Westringia fruticosa* (coastal rosemary); and *Leucanthele 'Tanika'* (spiky headed mat rush)." – Joanne Green



H&G GARDEN SPECIAL

### 16 Urban jungle

"Slender palm lily (*Cordyline stricta*) is an Australian rainforest native that works well in the urban garden landscape. It has narrow, strap-like leaves that crowd at the top of the stem, and understated, pale-purple flower bracts. They create a relaxed look for a garden." – SC

**17** "If you want a native with real wow factor, you can't go past *Doryanthes excelsa* (*Gymea lily*). It makes such an impressive statement in the garden, especially when planted among large rocks." – PJ



### 18 COASTAL BREEZE

"For a hardy coastal plant, it's hard to beat *Westringia fruticosa* (coastal rosemary, left). It grows well to about a 1.2m organic shape. I like the olive blue-green colour of the top of the leaf and the silver, almost white, underside. The plant doesn't last long though, and requires replanting after about seven to 10 years." – JC

### 19 TALKING POINTS

"*Banksia serrata* (old man banksia, right), is a tree with true Australian character. Its sculptural shape, gnarled and knobby trunk and serrated leaves make this plant a definite talking point in any garden. It's my children's favourite climbing tree, and the trunk is so tactile you simply can't walk by without touching it. The tall, cream flower spikes, which are about 15-20cm long, are followed by seed cones, which inspired Australian artist May Gibbs to create her big, bad Banksia Men." – NM







**20 VERSATILE FRIEND**  
 "Correa alba (white cornea) is a hardy and versatile native shrub. Its silver-green foliage performs well as a clipped hedge or topiary; left unclipped, the white, star-shaped flowers are delightful." - NM

**21 SCENTED WAX**

"Long-leaf waxflower (Philothesa myoporoides, below) is a good all-round native plant, which can tolerate a wide range of soil types and aspects. There are many different cultivars available, but they all have fragrant, dark green, waxy leaves and small, white flowers. And for a delightful added bonus, it releases a lovely fragrance when you brush past the leaves." - RC



**22** *Cute and colourful, Pycnosorus globosus (Billy buttons, right), is one of Phillip Johnson's favourites: "They're such a cheerful plant, with their yellow, ball-shaped flowers. They make a fantastic groundcover or rockery plant, and are great for picking, too." - RJ*



**23 Dramatic touch**

"An amazing native tree that creates a great talking point, and dappled shade is sugar gum (Eucalyptus cladocalyx 'Vintage Red', left) - its purple leaves are a real show-stopper. Although a relatively new cultivar, it seems to grow smaller than the straight form with an expected mature height of around 8m." - RC



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**HEDGING  
HOW-TO**

Push the boundaries with this diverse array of hedging plants, from shapely boxes to feathery dwarf bamboo.

**24 HEDGING BETS**

"For a hedging plant, it's hard to go past *Prunus lusitanica* (Port. gal laurel, right). It's related to the cherry, but is evergreen and very hardy. It can be used as a hedge with a height of 1-5m, and has fragrant white flowers in early summer. The leaves are dark green with a coarse texture." - RC



**25** "Sweet viburnum (*Viburnum odoratissimum*, left), is an excellent hedging plant and enjoys a wide range of climates. It requires about three good clips per year. The lime foliage provides a refreshing backdrop to the garden and it has perfumed white flowers in spring." - JG



**26 Leafy outlook**

"For a hedge with a distinctly tropical edge, I like using *Bambousa guangxiensis* (Chinese dwarf bamboo, above). It's an incredibly lush, tight-clumping, small-profile bamboo, growing to 3m tall, making it ideal for the urban garden and excellent for large pots or troughs. It tolerates full sun or semi-shade positions. I like a bedding plant to be understated, solid green in colour and with a good form." - SC



**27 OL' FAITHFUL**

"*Viburnum thunbergianum* (above), is an oldie but a goodie - and it continues to be a hedging favourite in South Australia. Once it's established, it can survive drought with minimal supplementary watering. It produces white flowers in late winter to early spring, filling a gap in the season when flowers can be scarce." - NV

'DESIGNING A LANDSCAPE IS ALL ABOUT BLENDING TEXTURES. BE INSPIRED AND TAKE TIME TO CREATE A GARDEN THAT APPEALS TO THE SENSES - SIGHT, HEARING AND SMELL.' STEVEN DUFFY



## TOP CLIMBERS

Cover and colour combine in these adventurous plants.

## 28 HELPING HAND

"When choosing a climber, consider the supporting structure in relation to the method the plant uses to climb. For instance, some climbers are self-supporting and stick to surfaces, such as *Ficus pumila* 'Minimal' (creeping fig) or *Parthenocissus tricolorata* (Boston Ivy, left). Roses need strong support, while wisteria needs strong and sizeable support because it is an assiduous grower!"

- RC

## 29 HALE &amp; HARDY

"For a spot in the sun or part-shade, native sarasperilla (*Hardenbergia violacea*, below), is a hardy climber with a large leaf and racemes of pendulous purple, white or pink flowers." - NV



30 "I often use the pretty Australian bluebell creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*). It's a native of WA, and with its delicate blue flowers and small green leaves it looks as good in a contemporary garden as it does in a native garden." - LG

## 31 STARRY, STARRY WHITE

"*Trachelospermum jasminoides* (star jasmine) is my favourite climber for Sydney. Unlike some vines which only have foliage toward the top, leaving the lower part of the plant bare, star jasmine retains foliage all the way to the ground. It has no pest and disease issues and is tough in all locations. Like all plants, it does need water and light and so no fertiliser!" - JC



## 32 Go wild

"If it's a voracious climber you're looking for, then *Petrea kohautiana* (purple passion, above) is the answer. It's an evergreen twining climber with woody, knotted stems and large, very textured leaves with deep mauve flowers in spring, summer and autumn. Let this vine take control and be unkept!" - SC

## GROUNDCOVERS

Break with convention and swap lawn for one of these low-lying gems.



## 33 A GOOD GROUNDING

"Groundcovers are often overlooked, but they play an essential role in any garden design. A fantastic groundcover is all but the hottest and driest areas is *Vicia hederacea* (native violet, above). It can be variable, growing to about 10cm tall in lightly shaded, moist areas, but is far more ground-hugging in hotter, drier areas. A good groundcover for dry, sunny areas is *Chrysanthemum epiculatum* (yellow buttons). This has grey/silver leaves and masses of bright yellow flowers for about nine months of the year." - RC



## 36 The hills are alive

"If you have a difficult slope and are looking for a mounding ground cover to cover it in a short period of time then *Hardenbergia violacea* 'Mini Haha' (left), and 'Mermai' are two good choices, although they can be short lived. For an intense splash of colour the *Anigozanthos flavus* (yellow kangaroo paw) hybrids are tough, reliable and spectacular where they will not get water-logged. They look great against stonework or Cortan steel." - RC

37 "*Trachelospermum asiaticum* (Japanese star jasmine) is a reliable groundcover for most gardens. Its flowers are yellowish-white and fragrant. It's non-invasive and handles a range of light levels, which is convenient." - JC

## 34 STEADY INFLUENCE

"*Myoporum parvifolium* (creeping boobialla) is a reliable groundcover suitable for most types of garden. In a tropical style garden, where it might receive quite a lot of water, it forms a lush, green carpet, but when used in a native garden it laughs up and hugs the ground. It has small, white flowers and contrasts with more colourful groundcovers like *Scaevola* (fan flower)." - LG

## 35 Hot stuff

Subtropical and tropical climates are blessed with a much greater biodiversity in plants than the southern states. For groundcovers, Arno King recommends:

- ❖ Summer love (*Acalypha chamaedrifolia*), a deep-green plant covered with red seedpods.
- ❖ Creeping gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides* 'Radicans'), with deep green leaves and white, waxy, perfumed flowers.
- ❖ Storm lily (*Zephyranthes carinata*), a small bulb covered with white moon-like flowers throughout the wet months.
- ❖ Temple grass (*Zoysia tenuifolia*), an evergreen mossy grass.



## SCREEN STARS

Give yourself some privacy and add a little extra charm with these delightful shrubs.

**38** "A screening plant I'm liking at the moment is the Irish strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*). It has very beautiful flowers in spring, tolerates coastal positions, does not get very large and requires no pruning – just general watering and a bit of fertiliser." – JG



#### 40 Slender screen stars

"Increasingly, people are looking for screening plants that don't take up too much space. I like *Aralias* (nutrives of *Polystichum guilfoylei*, *R. cunninghamii* and *R. scutellaria*). They grow in sun or shade, are narrow and dense to 2-3m in height and have a variety of leaf textures – some have leaves that look like parsley, others have large, rounded leaves. Leaves can be green, green and cream to yellow, or green and white. They are probably one of the hardest garden plants." – AK

**41 TOP-CLASS COVER**  
"For screening, I use a lot of *Murraya paniculata* (orange jessamine, below) and *Grevillea olivacea* (olive grevillea). Both can be trained to produce a formal hedge, or they can be left as shrubs, which grow to 3m high." – JG



**42** "Lillypillies such as bush cherry (*Syzygium australe*) make fantastic screening plants because they are fast growing and generally have leaves all the way to the ground." – PJ

#### 39 HIDE & PEEK

"A medium-size screening plant is *Callistemon salignus* (willow bottlebrush). It has attractive apple-green weeping foliage with pink new growth and a cream-coloured flower (pink forms are available). The trunks have attractive paper bark. It will reach a height of 7m with a spread of 6m and can be hedged to around 4m high and 1.5m wide." – RC

## EXCITING EDIBLES

Nothing tastes better than freshly picked homegrown fruit or vegies. These pointers will get you started.

**43** "Fruit trees have made a massive comeback. There are some great easy-care varieties available these days, and dwarf varieties producing commercial-quality fruit. Two apple trees that require little maintenance and are resistant to black spot are the 'Pixie Crunch' and 'Crimson Crisp.'" – WR

"Learning to grow and produce food is an essential life skill and will be especially important over the next few decades given the rising human population, limited arable land, unpredictable climatic conditions and rising energy costs." – AK

**SUPER SEEDS** For dinner with a difference, try heirloom varieties of kitchen garden favourites.



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Cosmic Purple carrot seeds, \$3, Little Veggie Patch Co; (03) 9531 5594 or [www.littleveggiepatchco.com.au](http://www.littleveggiepatchco.com.au).

#### 45 GROW YOUR OWN

"It makes sense to reduce weekly food costs, and produce your own high-nutritious, pesticide-free food. However, you do become a bit of a vegetable snob as you realise how good fresh food can taste. There is nothing like freshly picked asparagus, peas, tomatoes." – AK



#### 44 VEGIE TIPS

- ▶ Ask the King's advice for savvy vegie gardeners:
- ▶ Start out with seedlings rather than growing from seeds.
- ▶ Go for climbing plants such as beans (French beans, snake beans), luffas, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, gourds and chokos. These plants have a larger root system and are a little more tolerant of neglect.
- ▶ Focus on perennial vegetables that keep on growing for many years, such as asparagus. And if you live in the subtropics or tropics, try Malabar spinach, Okinawa spinach, samba spinach, Surinam spinach, chaya and sweet leaf.
- ▶ Join a local organic or permaculture group: learn from the people who have great local knowledge. Often clubs sell organic fertilisers, seeds and plants.



**CURIOSITIES & SHOW-STOPPERS**

Turn heads and get your neighbours talking with the artful inclusion of these arresting beauties.

**46 Show time**

"In smaller gardens I like to include *Nandina domestica* (sacred bamboo, RHS A404). It looks good all year with low-y foliage and white flowers followed by red berries. In larger gardens I love skyflower (*Platycodon grandiflorus*, RHS A245) because it is showy with rich purple flowers followed by yellow berries." - LC

**48** "In tropical gardens, *Neomarica gracilis* 'Walking Iris' looks fabulous mass-planted under a feature tree. The flowers resemble irises and only last a day - a true garden delight!" - sc



**50 RED SPLASH**

"*Bechamelia yuccoides* (Mexican lily, left) is simply dazzling. It has 1m-high succulent rosettes of handsome yucca-like foliage that is soft rather than spiky. In spring and summer, it sends flower spikes shooting up with pendulous reddish-pink and green bell flowers - sometimes reaching nearly 2m high. The effect is bold and brilliant." - NM



**47 SITTING PRETTY**

For a charming cottage-garden look, Nadia Matijevic recommends:

- ❖ *Nepeta* 'Walkers Low' (catmint, left). A wonderful silver-green border plant to soften paths or drape over retaining walls.
- ❖ *Salvia mexicana* 'Limelight' (Mexican sage).
- ❖ *Euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae* (wood spurge).
- ❖ *Limonium perzifolium* (statice).
- ❖ *Bearded iris* for their grey-green foliage and show of colour in spring.

**49 Soft touch**

"*Daphne* 'Eternal Fragrance' is one of my current favourites for its long flowering period and fragrance. It forms a dense, low mound with masses of small, white flowers in spring with sporadic flowering through until winter." - RC



**RICH TAPESTRY**

"Planted in drifts, this combination of plants creates a tapestry of texture." - NM

- 51 *Miscanthus sinensis* (feather grass).
- 52 *Bechamelia yuccoides* (Mexican lily) has 1m-high grey-green foliage that looks great combined with the pink and copper flowers of *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' (stonecrop).
- 53 *Crevelia lanigera* 'Mt Tamboritha' (wooly grevillea) forms a dense cover of green-grey foliage and reddish to pink and cream flowers.



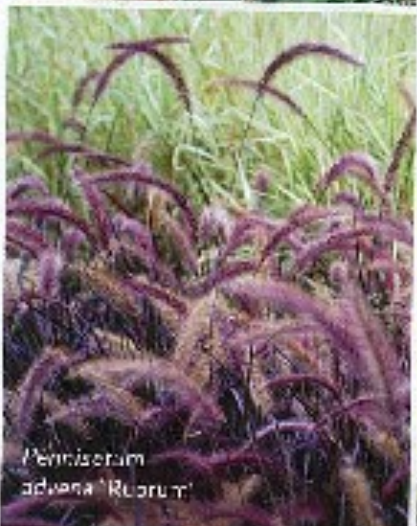
*Miscanthus sinensis*



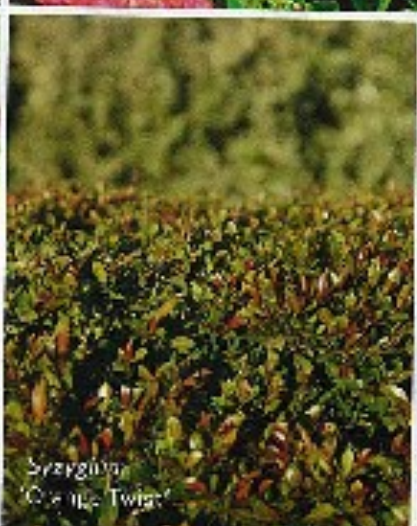
*Sedum*

**54 WANDER LAND**

"In a children's or sensory garden *Pennisetum advena* 'Rubrum' (purple fountain grass), is a great addition because it adds a touch of whimsy and playfulness." - RC



*Pennisetum advena* 'Rubrum'



*Syzygium* 'Orange Twist'

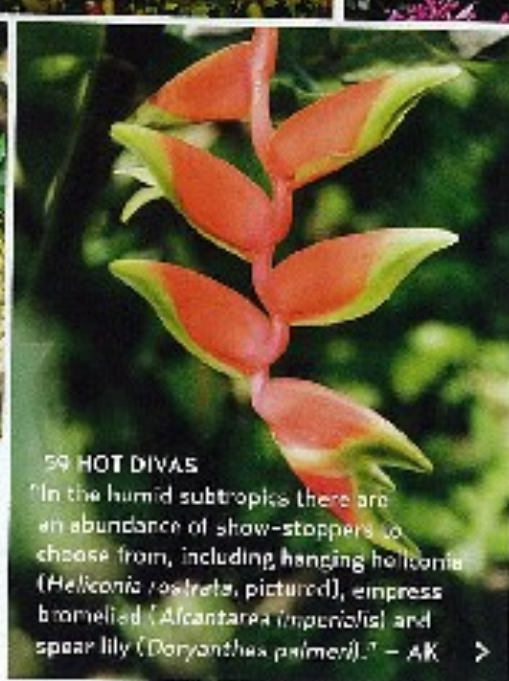
**55 FORMAL OCCASION**

"In a formal garden *Syzygium* 'Orange Twist' (lilyplily), *Gardenia* 'C. So Fine' (dwarf gardenia) and *Fraxinus griffithii* (flowering ash) all give a refined look." - RC



**58 SHOW OFF**

"For a dose of pretty, try *Pieris* 'Temple Bells' (above). It's a shrub that grows to about 1m high with smallish leaves that range from lime green to copper." - JG



**59 HOT DIVAS**

"In the humid subtropics there are an abundance of show-stoppers to choose from, including hanging heliconia (*Heliconia rostrata*, pictured), empress bromeliad (*Alcantarea imperialis*) and spear lily (*Doryanthes prismatica*)." - AK

**57** "Crucifix orchids, with flowers in shades of purple, pink and orange, are gorgeous in tropical gardens." - sc

46: Nandina domestica: © Alan Carter; 47: Nepeta 'Walkers Low': © Alan Carter; 48: Neomarica gracilis: © Alan Carter; 49: Daphne 'Eternal Fragrance': © Alan Carter; 50: Bechamelia yuccoides: © Alan Carter; 51: Miscanthus sinensis: © Alan Carter; 52: Bechamelia yuccoides: © Alan Carter; 53: Crevelia lanigera: © Alan Carter; 54: Syzygium 'Orange Twist': © Alan Carter; 55: Gardenia 'C. So Fine': © Alan Carter; 56: Agastache 'Sweet Lil': © Alan Carter; 57: Crucifix orchid: © Alan Carter; 58: Pieris 'Temple Bells': © Alan Carter; 59: Heliconia rostrata: © Alan Carter.

**56 A GENTLE HUM**

"I love hummingbird mint (*Agastache* 'Sweet Lil', below). It's a sunny perennial with a pink flower that looks wistful yet it's so very tough because it's drought- and frost-resistant - but it does need sun and good drainage." - WC



*Agastache* 'Sweet Lil'

**SAVE OUR SHOW-STOPPERS**  
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**SUSTAINABLE IDEAS**

Create an eco-friendly environment that can be enjoyed now and into the future.

*"Sustainable gardening means designing, constructing and maintaining our spaces in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."* — 13

**60 To Chelsea**

Landscape designer Phillip Johnson has made a name for himself by creating gardens that mimic the natural Australian environment. His own garden (left) at Olinda, in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges, is his living research laboratory. Phillip is passionate about water-wise gardening, championing the use of native plants and harnessing water. This month, he is taking his vision to the international stage, designing the Trailfinders Australian Garden presented by Fleming's Nurseries at the Chelsea Flower Show (May 21-25). Inspired by his own backyard, Phillip's show garden will feature a hillabong fed by a series of waterfalls that cascade over a 4-m-high stone gorge. This year is the 100th anniversary of the Chelsea Flower Show – and the last time Fleming's Nurseries will make the trip. Phillip is chuffed to be starring in the finale.

**61 PHILLIP JOHNSON'S TOP TIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE GARDENING**

- ❖ **Harness water** – Collect, store and use as much storm water from your property as possible.
- ❖ **Permeable surfaces** – Minimise hard landscaping and maximise the amount of permeable surfaces that allow water to percolate and filter down into the soil.
- ❖ **Go native** – Use preferably native or Mediterranean plants that need minimal watering.
- ❖ **Create an ecosystem** – Plant bare-rooted fruit trees, herbs and vegetables, and attract wildlife to your landscape with trees such as banksias and grevilleas.
- ❖ **Mulch** – Mulch all garden beds to help retain moisture and repress weeds.
- ❖ **Compost** – Keep a small compost bucket in the kitchen and move it to a larger unit outside.
- ❖ **Be on chemical alert** – Use cleaning products that have minimal impact on waterways and ecosystems.



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# The great all-year rounder



## AUTUMN

When plants show stress from the long, hot summer, Seasol is the perfect pick me up tonic. Use Seasol for all your autumn plantings to give them a great start. Unlike fertilisers, Seasol continues to deliver its benefits after growing slows to condition plants for the winter months ahead.



## WINTER

By strengthening cell structure, Seasol protects plants against frost damage from the inside out. Trials have shown that Seasol actually lowers the temperature at which plant cells freeze. When planting bare rooted roses and trees, pre-soak the roots and planting hole with Seasol to give them a great start.



## SPRING

When planting out Seasol minimises transplant shock and promotes strong, healthy early growth. Regular application of Seasol to the whole garden encourages prolific budding, flowering and fruiting on all plants... and because Seasol makes plants more resilient to insect pests and disease, your spring garden stays healthy, vibrant and productive.



## SUMMER

Regular applications will keep your summer garden at its best. Seasol builds plant resistance to heat and drought and revives heat stressed plants. Seasol stimulates root growth and strengthens cell structure so plants suffer less wilt and Seasol can even reverse the effects of dehydration in a single foliar application.



Seasol is a 100% seaweed solution that is effective from the moment it is applied



DON'T FORGET THE SEASOL!

WIN! \$2000 EVERY MONTH

[www.seasol.com.au](http://www.seasol.com.au)

## WATER-WISE WINNERS

Plant smart for a rewarding and engaging garden that doesn't require a regional dam to keep it healthy.



'WATER-WISE GARDENING DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO PLANT ONLY NATIVES. THERE'S A HUGE LIST OF WORLD-WIDE PLANTS YOU CAN USE TO SPECTACULAR EFFECT.' ALAN FISHER

## 62 HIGH & DRY

'You can create any sort of garden – traditional, pretty, formal or contemporary – using water-wise plants. I have designed wonderful formal gardens using trimmed saltbush hedges and lush indigenous feature planting. It's just a matter of working with indigenous plant series and a bit of know-how. Research which natives work best in your local area and work with the proven performers.'

— AF

## 63 HARDY GEMS

If you live where water is scarce, consider these reliable, dry-garden beauties, says Alan Fisher:

- ◆ *Coultia vana* (Kalgoorlie honey dew). A great groundcover for most situations.
- ◆ *Dianella* (flax lily) and *Loxandra* (mat rush). Beautiful border plants.
- ◆ *Eriosepium* (emu bush), right, is tough and pretty with long flowering.
- ◆ *Atriplex* (saltbush) or *Westringia*.
- ◆ Mallee trees.

64 'When creating a water-wise garden, you have to match the plants with the soil conditions. In sandy, sunny sites, for instance, many West Australian plants will thrive – even in Victoria. Heavy clay soils tend to hold water, so you need to choose plants that can tolerate winter water-logging and bone-dry conditions in summer.' — RC

## 65 GOOD LOOKERS

'In ways include saltbush (*Urochloa paludosa*) in my designs – it's the best hedging plant for a dry-climate garden. Saltbush needs a regular haircut, but it can look as attractive as a lavender or rosemary hedge – although the need for water.' — AF



## 66 Water-wise variety

'In a water-wise garden, I like to include *Dianellas* (flax lily, left), as there are so many to choose from. I really like the two variegated varieties, 'Wyeena' and 'Destiny' as they grow in a wide range of positions, including moderately shady locations where they always look bright and fresh. I also like all forms of *Rosmarinus* (rosemary), and *Dielsia grandiflora* (wild iris), which is a perennial, ever-green clumping plant with beautiful white flowers. *Dielsia* is hardy, will grow in most conditions and easy to propagate.' — LC

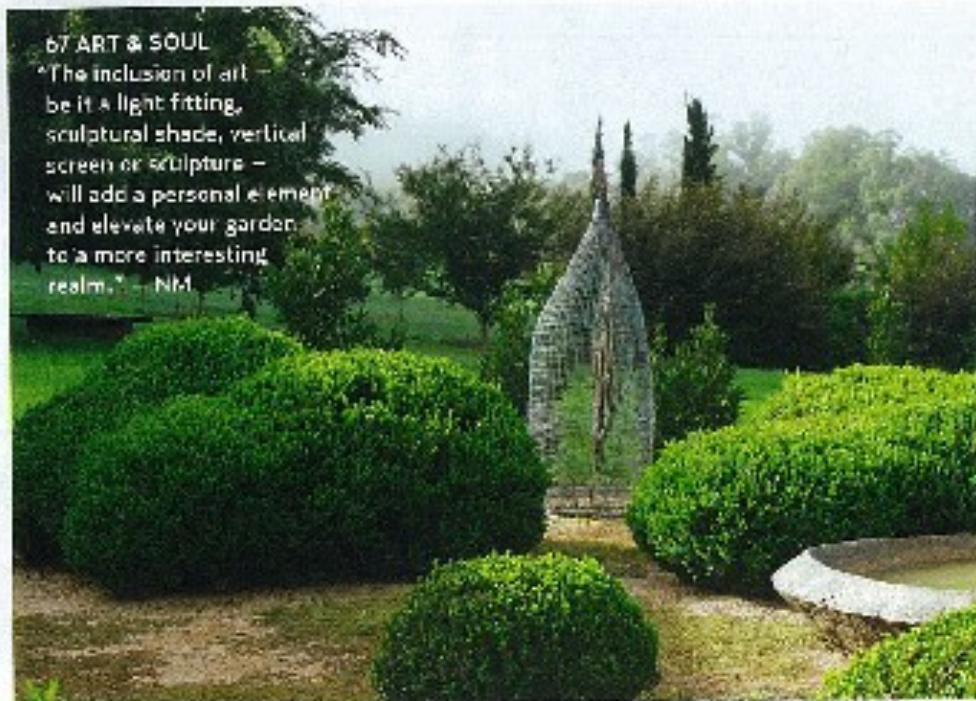


**OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING**

Discover the key elements that can make your garden irresistible to guests.

**67 ART & SOUL**

"The inclusion of art – be it a light fitting, sculptural shade, vertical screen or sculpture – will add a personal element and elevate your garden to a more interesting realm." – NM



**69 PULLING POWER**

"All outdoor spaces should be inviting and draw you out from the house. To achieve this there should be a good balance between hard surfaces and green planting, and between sunny and shady areas. In small spaces, use built-in furniture, which will reduce clutter and provide storage if necessary." – LG

**70** "Small spaces can be very exciting if designed correctly. Built-in storage, lighting, multipurpose areas and making use of the borrowed landscape are important. Vertical surfaces should be utilised as much as possible." – RC

**71 Sky's the limit**

When Linda Green was asked to design a contemporary-style courtyard in a small urban space, she found an ingenious way to extend the view: "I designed a skylight in the pergola roof to create a view up into the foliage of a gorgeous Poinciana tree (*Dalmanea regia*, right), which in summer can only be seen from a small area of the courtyard because the extended shade canopy blocks the view. It has the added benefit that it prevents hot air from being trapped under the roof."



**68 LET THERE BE LIGHT**

"Subtropical and tropical days lack the long twilight hours of southerly climates, particularly during the summer months. Garden lighting allows you to enjoy the garden into the evening – particularly important for those who work during the week." – AK

**LEADING LIGHTS**  
Illuminate your garden with the latest in outdoor light designs.

**72 Denver** copper outdoor pendant light, \$2200, Light on Landscape; (03) 9509 8000 or [www.lightonlandscape.com.au](http://www.lightonlandscape.com.au)



**73 Sentinel Spike** powder-coated steel outdoor spotlight, \$40, Beacon Lighting; 1300 232 266 or [www.beaconlighting.com.au](http://www.beaconlighting.com.au)



**74 Chelsea** galvanised iron outdoor wall light, \$446, Dunlop; (02) 9907 4825 or [www.dunlophome.com](http://www.dunlophome.com)

**75** "Shade is the key to creating a liveable outdoor space, whether it is a deciduous tree or a vine supported by a pergola, a sculptural screen canopy, a retractable shade, lowered roof system or simply an umbrella. Shade is what makes a space useable and enjoyable in the heat of summer." – NM



CHECK OUT THE H&G SHOW GARDEN



Download the free Viewa app (see page 151), see House & Garden channels hold your favourite on tablet over this page.

Photography by Kingsley Annand/AnnandCreative.com.au (this page, main image), Marco Himmelfarb/annandcreative.com.au (top left)



## H&G GARDEN SPECIAL



## STYLE IN SPADES

All that inspiration from Australia's top garden designers invites a look at the latest in outdoor style. Whether you're preparing to plunge your hands into the soil or you're putting the finishing touches to your alfresco entertaining zone, these statement pieces will get the job done – beautifully. Gorgeous gardening starts here.



1 Bells Beach woven fabric in Queen, \$51/m, Warwick Fabrics; 1300 767 888 or [www.warwick.com.au](http://www.warwick.com.au). 2 Courtyard King acrylic macramé plant hanger in Blue, \$75 (pot not included), Terrace; (02) 9362 5196 or [www.terraceoutdoorliving.com.au](http://www.terraceoutdoorliving.com.au). 3 Eva Solo metal and rubber tool set in Green, \$80, Bristol & Brooks; (02) 9252 8699 or [www.bristolandbrooks.com.au](http://www.bristolandbrooks.com.au). 4 Rox8 steel chair in Pink, \$60, Ikea; (02) 8000 6641 or [www.ikea.com.au](http://www.ikea.com.au). 5 Lichart powder-coated steel mesh stool in Green, \$219, Ash Furniture; 0419 107 746 or [www.ashfurniture.com.au](http://www.ashfurniture.com.au). 6 Brad steel fire pit, \$1100, Robert Plumb; (02) 9316 9066 or [www.robertplumb.com.au](http://www.robertplumb.com.au). 7 Rubber gumboots in Teal, \$70, Moxi; (03) 9885 9789 or [www.moxi.com.au](http://www.moxi.com.au). 8 Tulip carved-wood planter, \$1450 (40cm diameter, 46cm high), Garden Life; (02) 8399 0665 or [www.gardenlife.com.au](http://www.gardenlife.com.au). 9 Stainless steel trowel with ash handle, about \$16, Father Rabbit; +61 9 360 2573 or [www.fatherrabbit.com](http://www.fatherrabbit.com). 10 Homegrown & Handmade leather gardening gloves, \$40, Harctofind; [www.harctofind.com.au](http://www.harctofind.com.au).

H&G

## GARDEN SOIRÉE

Enjoy the last of the long, warm days with Lindeman's Early Harvest – 25% Lighter in Alcohol and Calories\*

Autumn brings with it an ideal excuse to host a fantastic garden party for family and friends. Whether it's a casual affair or a sophisticated soirée, these easy creative ideas will ensure it's a beautiful and memorable experience.



### HOW TO CREATE THE PERFECT GARDEN PARTY, BY DOMINIQUE RIZZO

- 1 Dress your table to reflect the theme of the party. Use colour for a relaxed event. Linen for more formality, or a recycled timber table for a rustic look.
- 2 Consider your lighting. Strings of paper lanterns are perfect for creating a serene atmosphere. Candles in jars are another great way to add ambience and elegance.
- 3 Use comfortable chairs, and seat covers to suit your theme or colour scheme. Even if you're having a stand-up affair, provide some chairs and places where people can put their food and drink.
- 4 Keep the menu simple. Dishes such as zucchini, dill and feta fritters or smoked chicken and dress sandwiches work perfectly. If you have a kitchen garden, use herbs and edible flowers in your punch, or toss them into salads as a garnish.
- 5 For dessert, serve something sophisticated and not too heavy. Meringues with cream and fruit, homemade lemon tarts using lemons from the garden, and honey Champagne jellies are simple and elegant.

Enjoy Responsibly

\*Lindeman's Early Harvest Pinot Grigio contains 25% lighter in alcohol and calories than our award-winning Lindeman's Pinot Grigio.



### PINOT GRIGIO – a toast to lighter living

Lindeman's Early Harvest is celebrating lighter living with the release of the NEW Pinot Grigio. At 25% lighter in alcohol and lower in calories, this refreshing crisp new wine has delicate flavours of crunchy apple and pear and is perfectly matched to a light seafood lunch or autumn picnic. Cheers!

To purchase or for more information, visit [www.lindemans.com.au](http://www.lindemans.com.au).

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