

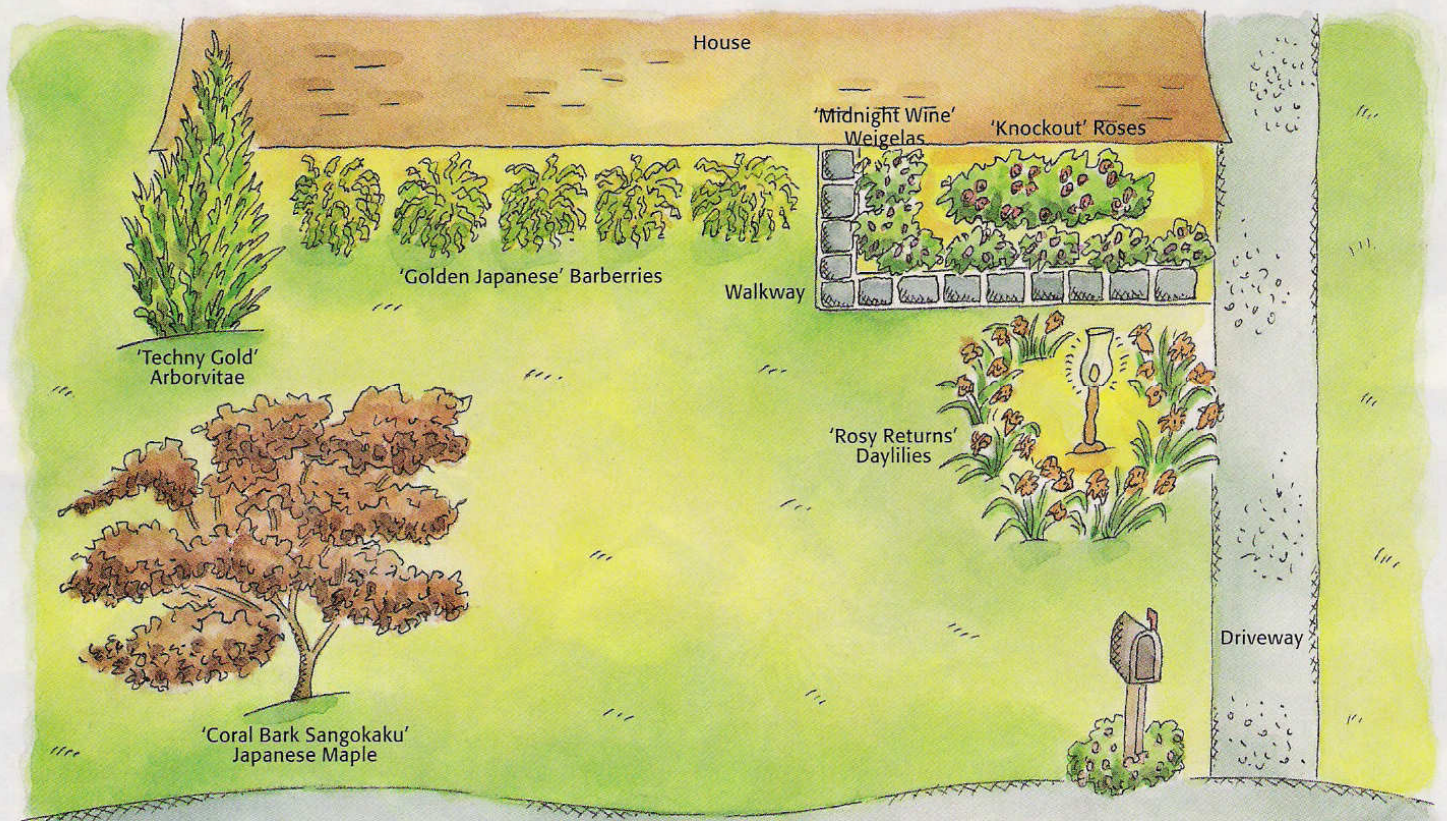
# Landscape Solutions

Garden plans and plants for your front, back and side yards

PLANS AND TEXT BY DOREEN G. HOWARD

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JENNIFER THERMES

Landscaping isn't difficult or time consuming when you select hardy, disease-resistant plants that require little or no work—just what every busy homeowner needs. The three garden plans we feature here take the work out of selecting the right combinations, so you can enjoy your yard all season instead of pampering plants and worrying about their compatibility.

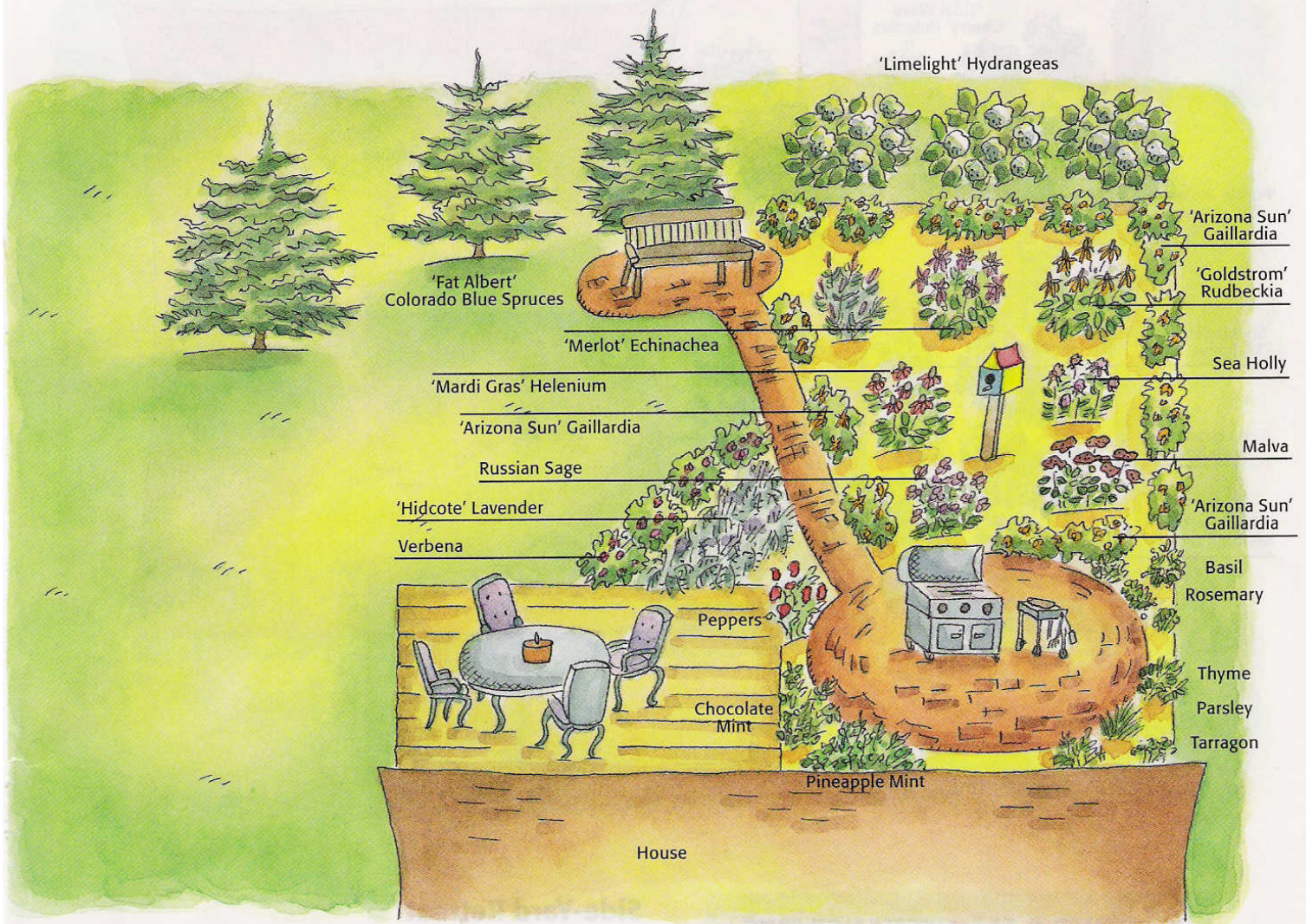


## No-Fuss Front Yard

Hardy shrubs, trees and perennial flowers dress up your entry and showcase your home when viewed from the street—all year long. Best of all, other than planting and watering to establish plants, there is no maintenance. Vivid coral bark on the Japanese maple, deep burgundy miniature weigela and gold-

hued evergreens paint the yard with color, especially in winter when most landscapes are bleak. Spring through fall, 'Rosy Returns' daylilies and a Knockout rose bloom nonstop, adding flower power to the display. Neither plant needs grooming; spent blossoms fall off to make way for more.





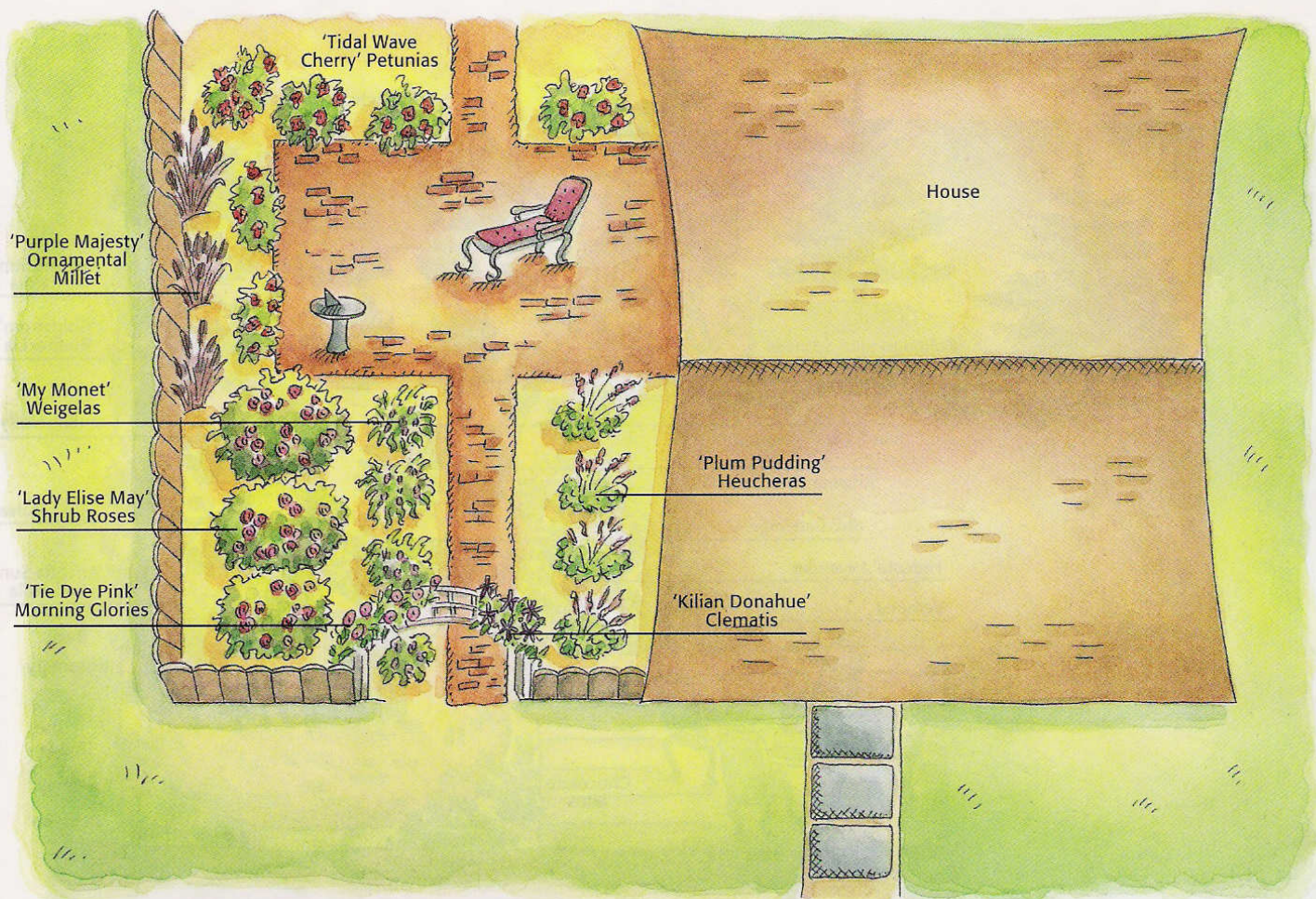
## Backyard Paradise

Blue spruce, hydrangea and a native flower cutting garden add up to a gorgeous backdrop for parties and family meals. The grill area is ringed with hot peppers and herbs to enhance barbecued foods and cool drinks. 'Black Beauty' ornamental peppers not only provide dramatic landscaping, but their fiery red fruits are great on the grill and in salsas. Flowers in the cutting garden bloom in succession all season and provide a breathtaking view from the deck or the bench under the trees. Besides providing endless bouquets, the flowers attract birds, butterflies and dragonflies. Best of all, the garden needs no

care. 'Limelight' hydrangea at the back boundary quickly produce huge flower panicles that start out white, turn lime-green and finally change to pink in cool autumn nights. The flowers can be cut at any stage for bouquets or dried for display indoors. So can the 'Hidcote' lavender. Enjoy its fragrance from the deck, cut it at bud stage for fresh bouquets or drying and incorporate the herb in your cooking. Add a few flower buds to sugar for a flowery iced tea or add stalks to vinegar for fruit salad dressing. Your whole family will enjoy this yard made for entertainment, not maintenance.



# SPECIAL SECTION Planning Guide



## PLANTING & MAINTENANCE TIPS

Follow these basic rules to achieve a stunning garden:

- \* Dig a hole three times wider than the plant container. Place plants at the same level as they sit in pots. Water ground before and after planting.
- \* Mulch with 2 to 3 inches of wood chips, shredded bark or leaves to suppress weeds and keep soil moist. Avoid grass clippings as they mat and mold.
- \* Provide an inch of water weekly for six weeks after planting so that healthy root systems are established.
- \* Prune roses back in early spring, remove dead foliage on perennials, spread a balanced fertilizer around them and water deeply. Prune shrubs and trees if size is an issue; they need no fertilizer.
- \* When planting annuals, sprinkle gradual-release fertilizer around transplants and scratch it into the top inch of soil to feed for the entire season. Top with mulch.

## Side-Yard Retreat

Turn narrow strips between your house and property line into intimate spots where you can relax with a quiet cup of coffee or slip away for a moment of quiet reflection. Frame these hideaways with arbors draped with flowering vines such as repeat-flowering clematis and morning glory. We selected no-care perennials, roses and annuals in dramatic shades of pink, coral and burgundy for a luxurious feel. Settle into a comfortable chair and take a break. There is no work to this flowery retreat.