

# Sunset

LIVING IN THE WEST

## Spring-fresh salads

**31** Delicious  
recipes  
from your garden

**Hot  
color!**

25 new  
plants  
we love

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PLEASURES  
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**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



## FLOWERS



## FULL SUN



### The botanical Lady Gaga

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



### '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' Echinacea

Nothing modest about this cone-flower. 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' Salvia

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' Echinacea

A cone-flower 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' Echinacea

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' Coreopsis

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

**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.



## TIGHT SPACE

**Techno Blue lobelia**

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



## FOLIAGE

**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 zones.

**'Lemon Fizz' santolina**

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 blood-red edges. Ethereal or ominous, you decide. Otherworldly 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. ■