

# Country Gardens

Our Readers' **BEST** Idea-Packed Gardens

## Grow, Harvest & Enjoy

Food & Flowers Together

### Container Ideas for Fall Fireworks

### 10 Best Native Flowers

### Plan & Plant Now For Next Year's Bounty

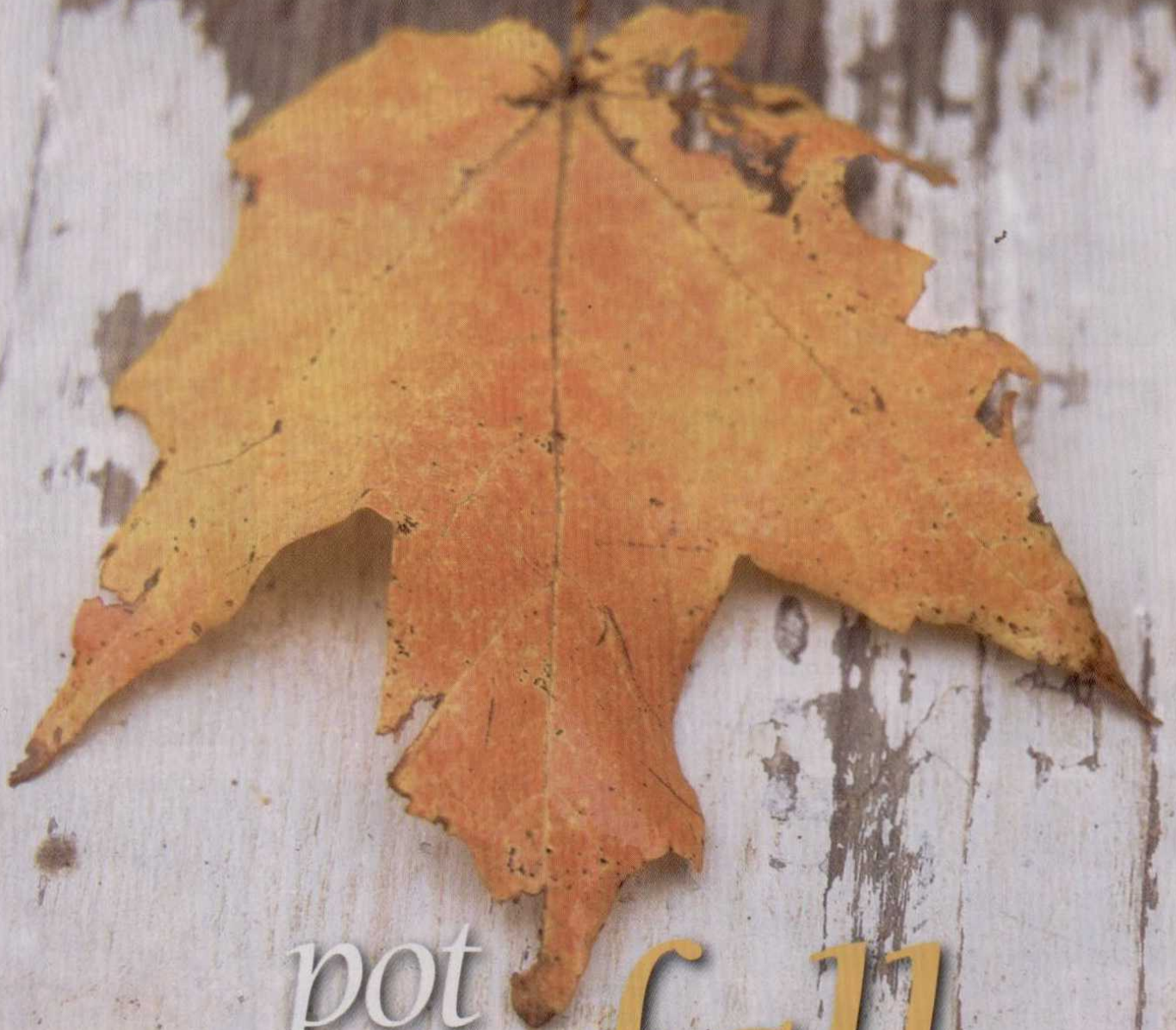
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BHG SIP Yellow Checkout



pot  
up fall  
fireworks

It's not too late to create a stunning autumn display on your deck or patio using subtle colors and containers crammed with flowers and grasses.



#### OUT OF THE GARDEN

Ruffly green kale (*Brassica oleracea*) is both pretty and edible growing in a great, Italian-style terracotta pot. It's so fast-growing, it can be trimmed leaf by leaf to add to soup or stir-fry without losing its garden audience. Here, it's combined with stately, fall-blooming anemone (*Anemone* spp.) that adds a zing of color with magenta-centered pink flowers that may bloom from September to November.

#### HARMONIZING SHADES

In a green glazed pot, sprawling, long-blooming apricot-pink coreopsis (*Coreopsis* 'Mango Punch') and soft orange chrysanthemums chime their color notes in harmony.



#### THE LATE SHOW

Far from being a forgotten season, fall has come into its own as perhaps the best of all. Summer's heat and insect invasions are a memory, and nature sets up a leafy red-and-yellow backdrop with maples and oaks. The low sun brushes shady corners with a golden glow. There are days, sometimes weeks, when the weather is as pleasant and bright (but not as hot) as high summer, and relaxing outside on a porch or patio is a pleasure not to be missed.

It's a perfect time to smarten up your outdoor living area, deadhead hardy annuals, pinch back perennials, and set out new pots of cold-hardy flowers and grasses, which can stretch their display right to the edge of winter and then be popped into the ground to enjoy again next spring. If chrysanthemums are the queens of fall gardens, they rule over a full court that includes asters, goldenrods and sedums, ornamental grasses, bright berries, and dazzling vines.



#### STRONG AND SAINTLY

Ornamental black pepper makes a great display in a rusty cast-iron pot. This pretty pepper produces round, red berries that ripen to black. Planted with a pink verbena, flattering purple kale, and offset by lime-green kale, it's a stunning combination.

#### THAT LOVELY COLOR!

An airy mass of long-blooming, daisylike apricot-pink coreopsis (*Coreopsis* 'Mango Punch'), combined with matching chrysanthemums and a few berried spikes of ornamental black pepper, looks delicate and dynamic in a white footed vase atop the table covered in pale apricot fabric.



#### CHASE AWAY THE CHILL

Donna Talley, a magazine producer and photo stylist who lives in Saratoga Springs, New York, had already enjoyed hours of summertime leisure with friends and family on her backyard flagstone patio when fall rolled in. A full-moon frost discouraged tender perennials and nipped the annuals. It was time to neaten up and refocus.

But Donna wasn't ready to bring out the leaf blower. Using a strong color palette of rich, warm autumn hues, she brought the enclosed 10x14-foot space back to life using both old and new seating and lighting and creating two tablescapes to welcome guests. Why not enjoy this late harvest of outdoor beauty? "Guests get blankets and cushions if the night turns chilly," Donna says. On sunny days, the maple's glorious golden leaves are better than any umbrella, and warm autumn nights encourage lingering.

