

## ROCKY MOUNTAINS

## Your CHECKLIST

Start tropical-looking clivias indoors for orange, salmon, cream, or yellow trumpet flowers later this winter.

Place pots in a cool, bright window and water only when the soil is dried out; once buds form, water more frequently.

It's not too late to plant Washington hawthorn (Crataegus phaenopyrum), a small tree with brilliant red berries and reddish orange fall foliage.

Plant ornamental kale for fall color that resists frosts in the winter and usually comes back the following spring.

Try a little-known, undemanding tuberous geranium (Geranium tuberosum). Deer- and rodent-resistant, this beauty has veined rosy purple flowers and filigreed sage foliage. It forms large drifts in early spring and disappears by June.

MAINTAIN

After harvesting vegetable beds, turn the soil with a shovel, leaving large clumps to capture winter moisture and expose insect larvae to birds.

Wearing gloves, remove and discard nesting material from birdhouses. Rinse the inside of the birdhouse with a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water; let dry, then remount to provide a cold-weather shelter for birds.



"Douglas fir trees frame the garden and help it blend right into the hills."

JOHANNA SILVER, ASSOCIATE GARDEN EDITOR

Wet, matted fall leaves kill lawns. Rake them up and pile on empty garden beds, under trees, and around shrubs.

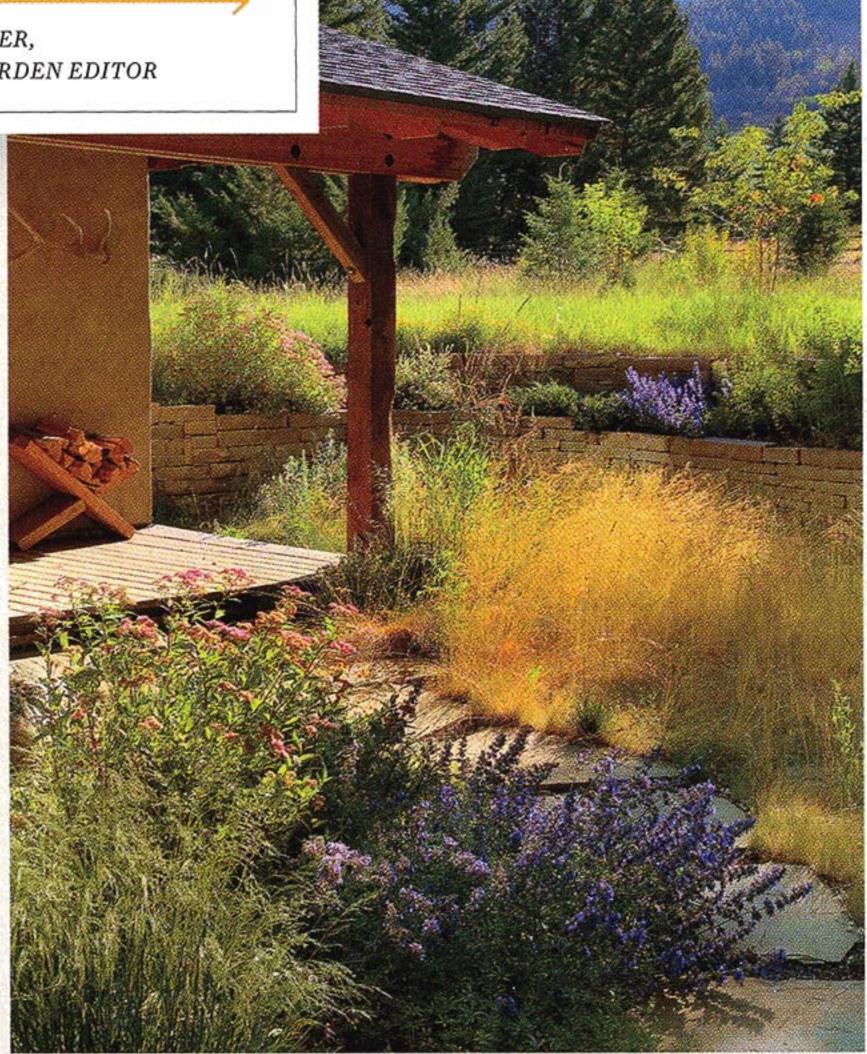
Fertilize lawns using a "winterizer" formula that is high in phosphates.

Overwinter marginally hardy ornamental sages by surrounding them with cylinders made of chicken wire, filled with lightly packed fallen leaves.

Dig up tender tubers and corms, such as dahlias and gladiolus, and clean and dry them. Divide dahlias. Store in a box of slightly damp sawdust in a cool, frost-free room (like a garage).

Bring potted rosemary indoors, placing it in a warm, sunny window.

Collect seed heads of self-sowing annuals and biennials like Chinese forget-me-not, love-in-a-mist, poppies, or snap-dragons to scatter where you'd like them to grow—or to share with friends.



GARDEN WE LOVE

## Gone native

"NO LAWN," requested Bozeman, Montana, homeowners Jim and Joan Hammer—much to the delight of their landscape designer, Beth MacFawn. A specialist in natives, MacFawn created this relaxed garden by incorporating plants that grow in the nearby mountain meadow, including tufted hair grass (Deschampsia cespitosa) and Idaho fescue (Festuca idahoensis). She paired them with hardy plants of complementary textures and colors, such as purple catmint and red Froebel spirea. DESIGN Beth MacFawn Landscape Design, Bozeman; montanalandscapedesigner.com.



What grows where you live? Find your Sunset climate zone at sunset.com/zonefinder