



Smart

Smart gardeners reuse and rethink everything—repurposed wood to make benches, broken concrete to build walls or steps, boulders found on-site. Smart plants are those that can (almost) fend for themselves.

≈ Eco Chic

Sustainability is fun in this Santa Barbara backyard, which has a hot tub and rock-lined firepit behind the grassy meadow but uses 95 percent locally sourced or salvaged materials. The once-flat property was contoured to create rooms and to direct storm water into low spots. Mexican feather grass, feather reed grass, and sedges mingle among the sandstone boulders. Permeable decomposed granite covers the paths. Design: Margie Grace (garden); Michelle Kaufmann (Custom Prefab house).



≈ Restyled

A raised bed filled with smoke tree, blue *Senecio mandraliscae*, and other easy-care plants is just the ticket outside this micro-house created from a retired shipping container. Dry-stacked New England wall stone edges the bed, while succulents and phormium fill pots in foreground. Pavers are made from recycled rubber tires; gravel between adds permeability. Design: DIG Gardens (planting); HyBrid Architecture, Seattle (Cargotecture house).

« Recycled

Steel plow discs welded to reclaimed pipe provide shallow bowls for a range of succulents, including chartreuse 'Angelina' sedum, *Senecio crassissimus*, echeverias, and *Euphorbia tirucalli* 'Sticks on Fire'. Design: DIG Gardens, Santa Cruz, California.



Exterior Scott and Ella were drawn to their 1930s-style Californian home because it reminded them of their grandparents' homes.

Garden details (clockwise from top left)

- A sturdy agapanthus is pretty as well enduring.
- Roses, miniature roses, and Peruvian lilies fill pots beneath the lion-head plaque.
- An example of the old-fashioned roses that Ella loves.
- As in the original garden, potted lemon trees define the four corners of the lawn.

GROW Ornamental Grasses

Ornamental grasses have graceful forms and varying textures that make them perfect foils for shrubs and perennials. Some multiply by spreading stolons or rhizomes (a few can self-sow and become invasive). Most have a clumping growth habit and make excellent container plants.



Tufts of Mexican feather grass nearly glow among rocks in this Santa Barbara garden; thyme grows between stacked fieldstone boulders in foreground. Design: Margie Grace, Grace Design Associates.



CONTAINER *Pennisetum massaicum* 'Red Bunny Tails' captures sunlight in its seed heads, while at its base, *Calibrachoa* bears blooms in smoldering autumn hues. Design: John Greenlee.



Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue' and tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau') flank a rill.



How to Use Vines

D = Deciduous; E = Evergreen;
A = Annual; P = Perennial

TRELLIS

Black-eyed Susan (*Thunbergia alata*) A, P
Bougainvillea E
Clematis D, E
Mandevilla D, E
Morning glory (*Ipomoea*) A, P
Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum*) E
Sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*) A

GROUNDCOVER

Bougainvillea E
Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) D, E
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum*) A, P

WALL

Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus*) D
Bougainvillea E
Bower vine (*Pandorea*) E
Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium*) E
Creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*) E
Cup-of-gold vine (*Solantra*) E
Jasmine (*Jasminum*) E
Lilac vine (*Hardenbergia*) E
Passion vine (*Passiflora*) D, E

STURDY ARBOR

Cape honeysuckle (*Tecoma*) E
Crossvine (*Bignonia*) E
Flame vine (*Pyrostegia*) E
Grape D
Kiwi D
Potato vine (*Solanum laxum*) E
Queen's wreath (*Petrea volubilis*) E
Trumpet vine (*Distictis*) E
Wisteria D

TREE (WITH TRAINING)

Bougainvillea E
Wisteria D

VINE SAMPLER: FOLIAGE, BERRIES, FLOWERS, FRUIT



FOLIAGE. Boston ivy leaves turn vivid orange-red in fall—showy against a blank wall.



BERRIES. Grapevines are especially versatile; espalier them against a white wall, to train over a freestanding arbor.



FLOWERS. Passion vine has dramatic flowers nestled among its glossy leaves. Passion vines produce fruit too.



FRUIT. 'Hayward' kiwi stems show reddish tinge; this variety comes from New Zealand.