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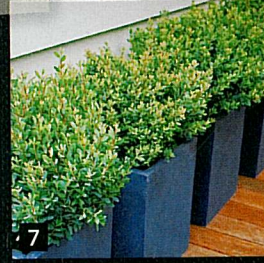
Brilliant ideas for outdoor living

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HOT FAVOURITES

H&G Gardening Editor **Helen Young** reveals her top 10 picks from among the latest plant releases, with an eye for colour, form and drought-tolerance.

PENNISETUM 'PENNSTRIPe'

1 This version of native fountain grass has fat, feathery plumes and vibrant variegated foliage in cream and green. It is compact – 45x45cm – and non-invasive. Suitable for almost all areas of Australia.

BRACHYSCOME 'PACIFIC REEF'

2 This pretty native daisy will produce masses of musk-pink blooms most of the year, while the scalloped leaves have attractive purple tips. A quick, low-growing, spreading groundcover suitable for full sun and most soil types.

PENNISETUM 'EMERALD ELF'

3 A dwarf version of popular fountain grass, reaching only 50cm, with great texture. Long-flowering over summer and autumn. The light pink plumes don't produce viable seed, so there is little risk of weediness. Tough and trouble-free.

ANIGOZANTHOS 'BUSH PIZZAZZ'

4 New to the strong and reliable Bush Gems range, this upright kangaroo paw – it grows 70cm tall – bears prolific

stems of deep magenta flowers most of the year. It's suitable for both pots and garden beds, or as a cut flower.

WESTRINGIA 'NARINGA'

5 This compact form of native coastal rosemary is a tidier, longer-lived variety that requires less pruning. Ideal for a 1m-high hedge, it can take sun, drought, wind and salt. Pretty mauve flowers are a bonus.

ALOE 'ERIK THE RED'

6 With each stem bearing rosettes of long, sword-shaped leaves, this statuesque aloe has a strong architectural form, reaching 2m in height. Blood-red flowers stand out like a torch in winter and also attract birds.

LEPTOSPERMUM 'FORE SHORE'

7 This dwarf native tea-tree thrives in harsh coastal conditions, growing 50cm high and 1m wide. Dense grey-green foliage shows highlights of bronze in the new growth. Ideal as a low hedge or for topiary instead of common box, or plant it poolside.

CORDYLINe 'SUNRISE'

8 Standout pink colour and sculptural form make this an ideal feature plant, whether in pots or in the garden. Heat-tolerant and tough, suited to either sun or shade, it reaches 1-2m in height.

GREVILLEA 'FIRE CRACKER'

9 Compact and tough, this appealing grevillea explodes with colour from April to October to brighten winter gardens. Sun-loving and low-maintenance, with a compact growth habit, it will grow to 40cm tall and 80cm wide. Prefers an open and sunny position.

ECHINACEA 'SUNDOWN'

10 Also called coneflowers, these much-loved, stalwart perennials are now available in fabulous colours: pink, tomato red, yellow and orange. They have a heady perfume and are great for picking. The decorative central cones change colour through winter. 'Sundown' has coppery petals, fluted when first open. It grows 80cm high and 40cm wide. Available exclusively from the Digger's Club. **H&G**