

• EXCLUSIVE MEMBERS EDITION •

# Garden Gate

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**6** Surprisingly Simple Tips to  
**Make Your Garden Better Every Spring**

**INSIDE**  
Exclusive Members Section

**11 ULTIMATE  
CONTAINERS**  
+ 32 Must-Have Plants  
see page 51

**THIS PROTESTED COMMON  
GARDEN ADVICE** — you may  
be surprised at the results | 8

**SAVE TIME & MONEY**  
with our readers' best tips | 4

**10 OLD-FASHIONED  
PLANTS WE LOVE**  
— PLUS our exclusive plan! | 14

Fix up your path planting —  
**GORGEOUS SPRING MAKEOVER** | 40





## Make your garden shed a welcoming destination

If you've ever wished there was paint that would make a bland garden shed like the one in the photo above invisible, there is an easier way — landscaping.

Plant an ornamental tree, such as this crabapple, on the south side. It brings the structure into scale with its surroundings — the shed no longer looks plopped in. And it provides shade on the sunniest side to reduce heat build-up. A viburnum on the north corner disguises an awkward junction between the shed and a screen that's hiding a storage area. Two more viburnums keep everything in balance and cover hard edges.

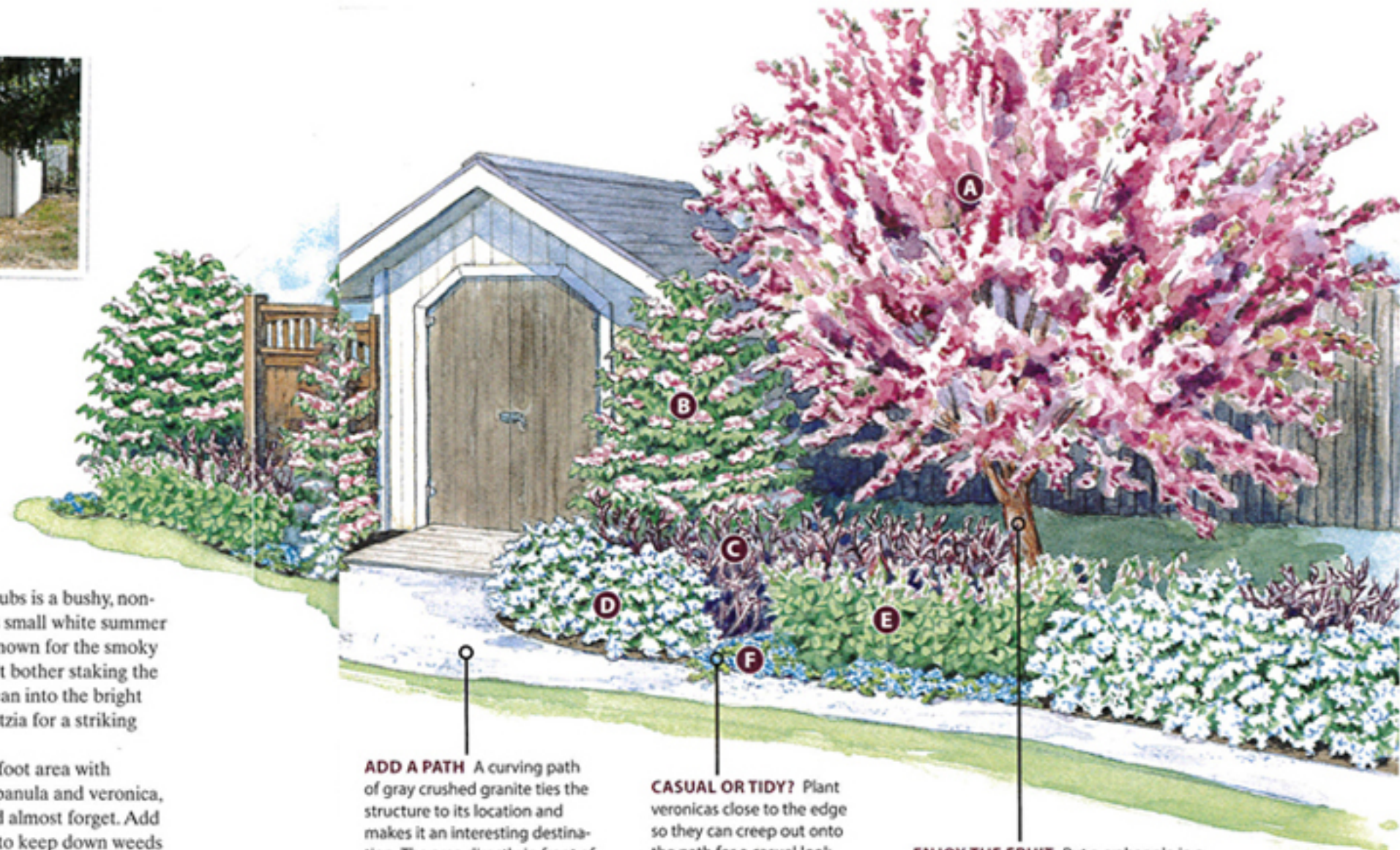
Peak bloom time for the plants in this garden is mid- to late spring. The dwarf deutzia is a long-blooming cultivar and its leaves even change to purple in fall. This shrub is tall enough, and more substantial than annuals or perennials, to reduce corner cutting as

you head to the shed. Who wants to end up with a bare or muddy spot at the edge of a beautiful bed?

Behind these low shrubs is a bushy, non-climbing clematis. It has small white summer flowers, but it's better known for the smoky purple-red foliage. Don't bother staking the weak stems. Let them lean into the bright green foliage of the deutzia for a striking color contrast.

Finish off this 10x30 foot area with perennials, such as campanula and veronica, which you can plant and almost forget. Add a 2-inch layer of mulch to keep down weeds and conserve moisture, and you're ready to sit back and relax (or get the mower out of the shed and start cutting the grass!).

— Jim Childs



**ADD A PATH** A curving path of gray crushed granite ties the structure to its location and makes it an interesting destination. The area directly in front of the shed is left open so you can drive a riding mower or wheel other large equipment through the wide doorway if necessary.

**CASUAL OR TIDY?** Plant veronicas close to the edge so they can creep out onto the path for a casual look. Like a tidier appearance? Set them back 7 or 8 in. on center so their stems just reach the path's edge.

**ENJOY THE FRUIT** Put a crabapple in a flower bed or border, away from sidewalks and paths, and you won't need to sweep up the tiny fruit. But you will enjoy watching the birds that carry it away on a winter day.



**A Flowering crabapple**

*Malus Centurion*™

Tree; rosy red flowers in spring; 3½-in. bright red fruit in fall; disease-resistant; full sun; 20 to 25 ft. tall, 15 to 20 ft. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 8, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 8 to 1

Number to plant: 1



**B Viburnum**

*Viburnum plicatum tomentosum*

'Molly Schroeder'

Shrub; pink flowers in spring; may rebloom in fall; full sun to part shade; 6 to 8 ft. tall, 4 to 5 ft. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 5 to 8, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 8 to 1

Number to plant: 3



**C Clematis**

*Clematis recta* 'Purpurea'

Perennial; white blooms in early summer; nonvining; deep smoky purple-red foliage; full sun to part shade; 36 to 48 in. tall, 24 to 30 in. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

Number to plant: 9



**D Deutzia**

*Deutzia Yuki Snowflake*™

Shrub; white blooms in early to midspring; purple-tinted fall foliage; full sun to part shade; 18 to 24 in. tall, 30 to 36 in. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 5 to 8, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 8 to 1

Number to plant: 8



**E Campanula**

*Campanula takesimana* 'Elizabeth'

Perennial; pink flowers from early to late summer; full sun to part shade; 18 to 24 in. tall, 18 to 20 in. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 5 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

Number to plant: 15



**F Veronica**

*Veronica* 'Blue Reflections'

Perennial; pale blue flowers from spring into summer; full sun to part shade; 2 to 3 in. tall, 12 to 14 in. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 7, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 7 to 1

Number to plant: 12