



Sunset

WESTERN GARDEN

BOOK OF

EASY-CARE PLANTINGS

**The
Ultimate
Guide to
Low-Water
Beds,
Borders,
and
Containers**



BOLD

Intensely colored garden walls command you to notice them, and you can't help but respond. Don't waste those theatrical backdrops by planting wimps in front. Vivid walls demand strong plants that can make their own statement. Big sculptural succulents fit the bill.



RHYTHMIC REPETITION

A threesome of century plants (*Agave americana*) show off their fanlike habits and blue-green leaves against a cherry red wall in Arizona. A pair of mesquite trees (*Prosopis juliflora*) spread their canopies overhead. DESIGN Steve Martino



SHARP CONTRAST

The cool green color and vertical form of *Cereus peruvianus* make this cactus the perfect foil for a wide expanse of tomato red wall in Phoenix. *C. peruvianus* can spread to 10 feet tall and 15 feet wide at maturity, so this contrast will get even more striking with time. A trio of blue rosettes (*Agave ovatifolia*), some feathery grass (*Nassella tenuissima*), and a mound of soft *Dalea capitata* round out the planting. DESIGN Chad Robert

LINE DRAWING

A pair of ocotillos (*Fouquieria splendens*) in front of a mustard-colored wall in Arizona create the illusion of a giant abstract painting. Later, when bright green leaves sprout along the stems and red-orange flowers appear on top like candle flames, the golden background will make those colors pop. DESIGN Steve Martino