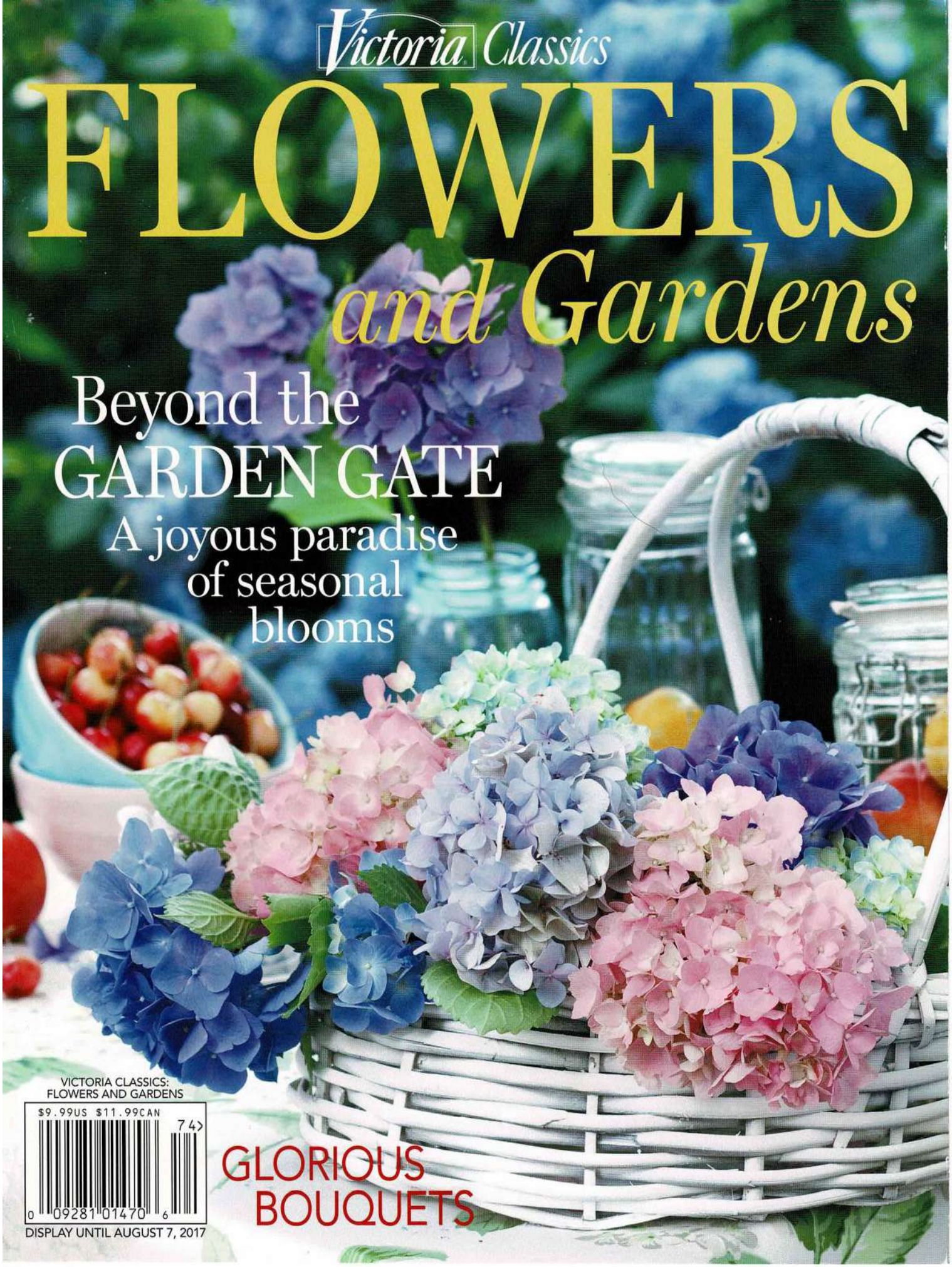

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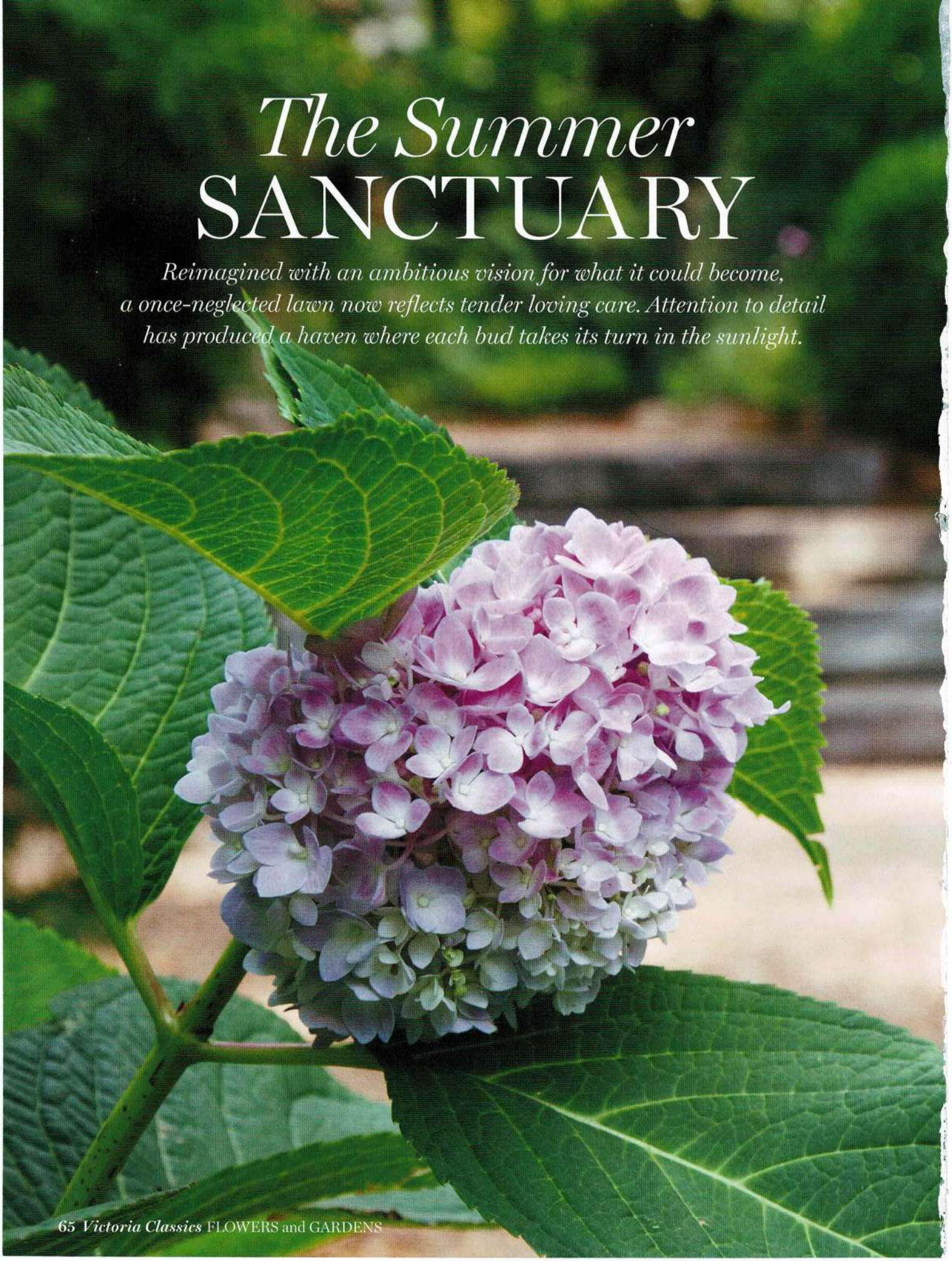
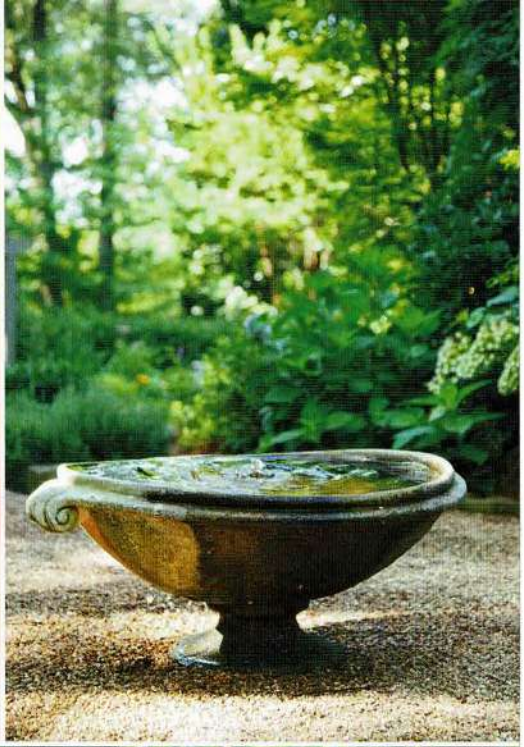
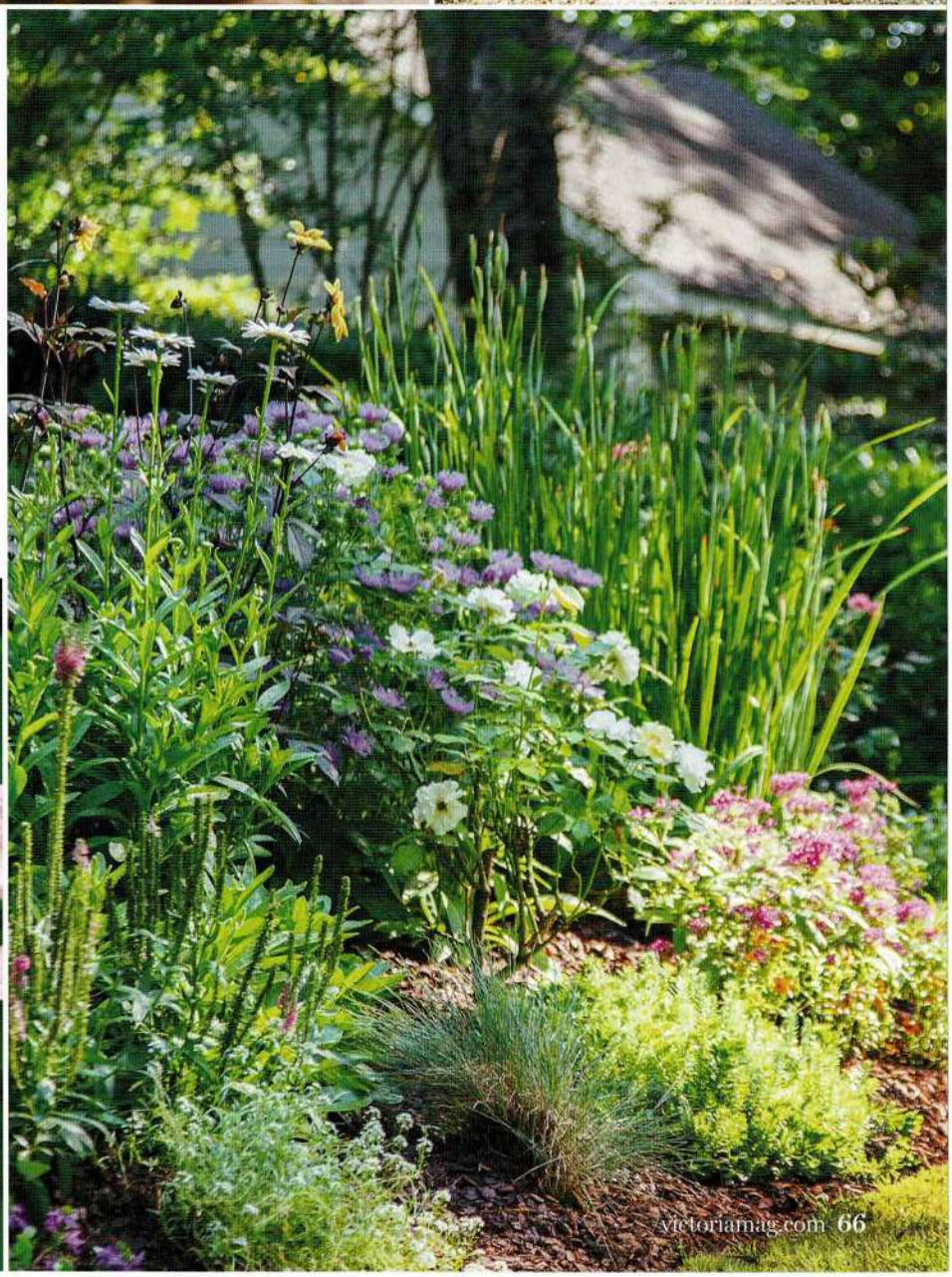


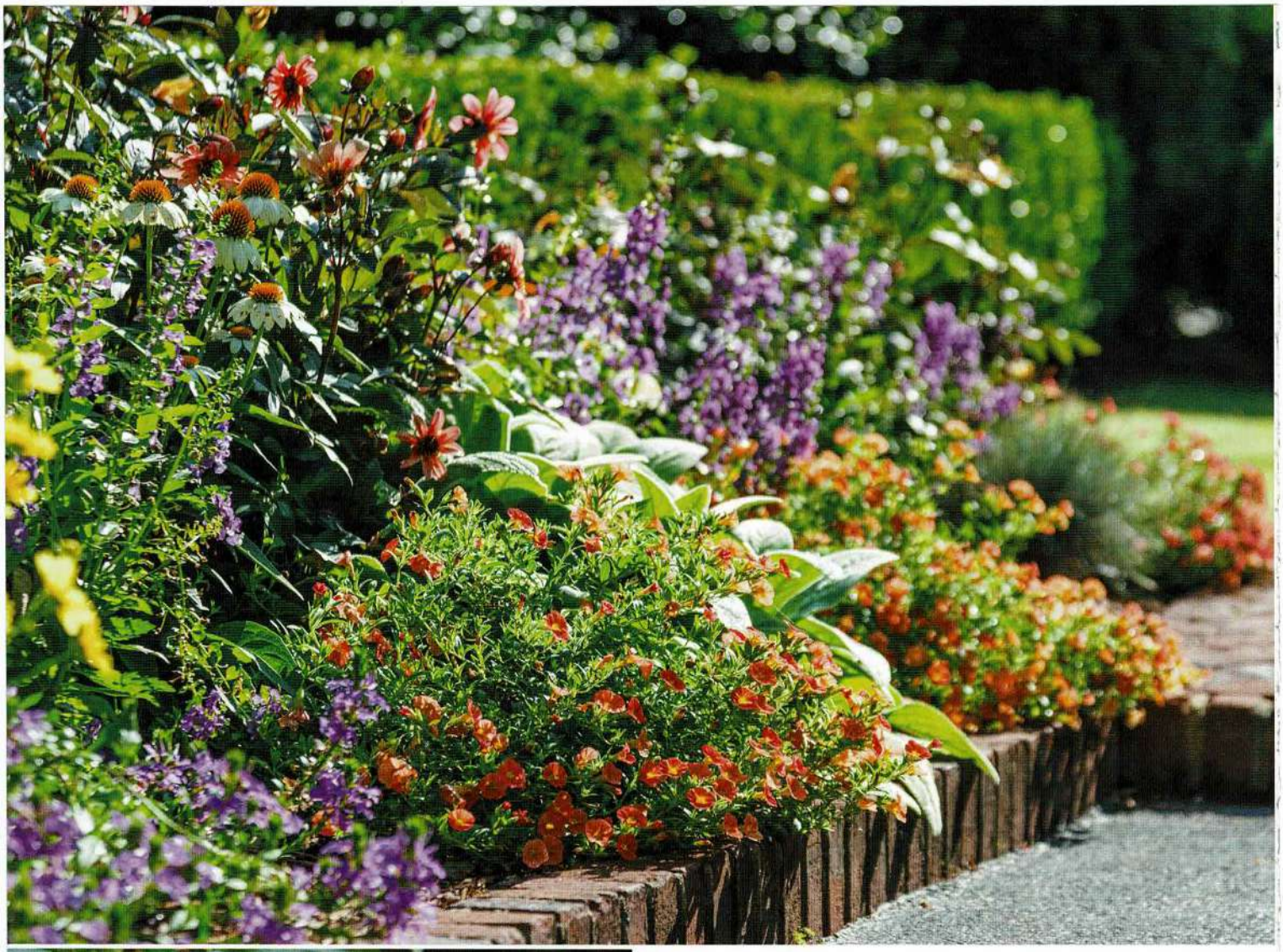
The Summer SANCTUARY

Reimagined with an ambitious vision for what it could become, a once-neglected lawn now reflects tender loving care. Attention to detail has produced a haven where each bud takes its turn in the sunlight.



Clockwise from above left: Easygoing calibrachoa, also known by the name Million Bells, finds favor for its petunia-like blossoms, long blooming season, and tendency to sprawl. An eye-catching water feature provides refreshment for the homeowners' English springer spaniels, who pause here often to drink. Shasta daisies, rudbeckia, Stokes aster, and pentas blend beautifully in this vignette. A member of the sunflower family, purple coneflower has been used medicinally for generations.





In Jan and Lane Savage's garden oasis, the calendar brings into focus an ever-changing showcase of flora. Terraces leveled from the slopes of the mountainside property create a living amphitheater of sorts, where the radiant performers include peonies, roses, and dahlias. The burbling of a fountain lends a melodic quality to the scene, and bright nectar-rich plants encourage bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds to flit among the petals.

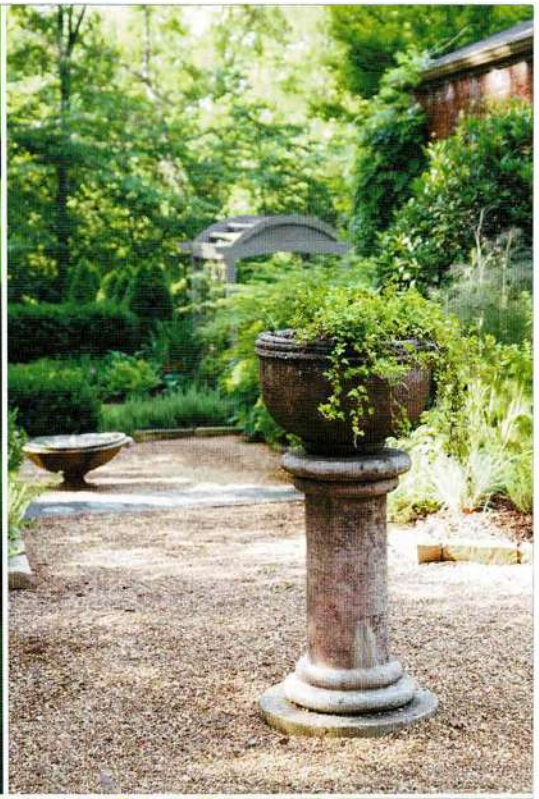
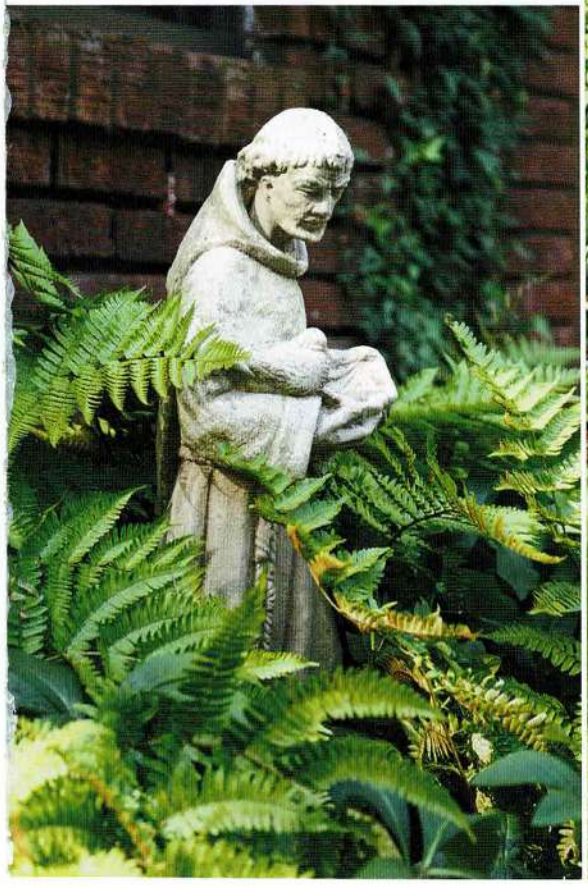
"All gardeners know that the yard you have today will not be the one you have next week or next year," says Jan. With the help of landscape designer Troy Rhone, the couple transformed their half-acre lot into a series of thoughtfully planned outdoor rooms framed by arborvitae and architectural elements. Raised beds

Left: Hydrangeas flourish in the Savages' southern climate. The weight of the flower panicles gives a graceful arch to the branches of this deciduous shrub. Opposite: Wooden steps, a gravel walkway, and a path of stepping-stones bid guests explore the tranquil retreat.

brim with vegetables, while expanses of green claim their worth in the pleasure they impart.

Realizing that Jan wanted to handle nearly all the upkeep, Troy encouraged her to consider the personal investment each design choice would require. Incorporating areas of gravel into the layout not only brings texture but also necessitates less watering and weeding. Hardy perennials ensure that time spent planting will pay off in enduring beauty. Although Jan counts the hours of mowing and pruning as rewarding, she suggests surrendering some of this responsibility to professionals when possible.

The garden is luminous in the early morning and just before sunset, especially when blooms are at their peak through midsummer. "The combination of fading light and brilliant color," Jan says, "is really something to behold." It's a spectacle that is new every day and a source of entertainment that makes these avid horticulturists feel more like patrons of the arts. "'Let's go out and look at the garden' is the first thing my husband says when he gets home from work," she adds. "And we always do."



Nearly all objects in the garden—from bird feeders to sculptures—were gifts to Jan. These treasured pieces remind her of loved ones and enhance the garden's visual appeal. Below left: Lane purchased this statue of Saint Francis of Assisi, which takes pride of place beneath the window of his wife's sewing room.