

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications®

GARDEN ROOMS™

Expand Your
Living Space

Porches, Patios,
& Courtyards

19 Container
Gardens
You Can
Plant &
Forget

Color in
Minutes!
With
Hanging
Baskets

Design Tips
For Small
Backyards

Summer 2008
Display until July 1



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\$6.99 U.S.

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BHG SIP Yellow Checkout

Fab Foursome

Large and small blossoms for sunny spots

A. 2 *Verbena Obsession*
Pink Chiffon

B. 1 *petunia* (*Supertunia*
'Priscilla')

C. 2 *Diascia Coral Belle*

D. 3 million bells (*Calibrachoa*
Cabaret Terra Cotta)





Pastel Beauties

Sun-lovers for a cottage-garden effect

A. 2 *Verbena Quartz* White

B. 1 petunia (*Supertunia* 'Priscilla')

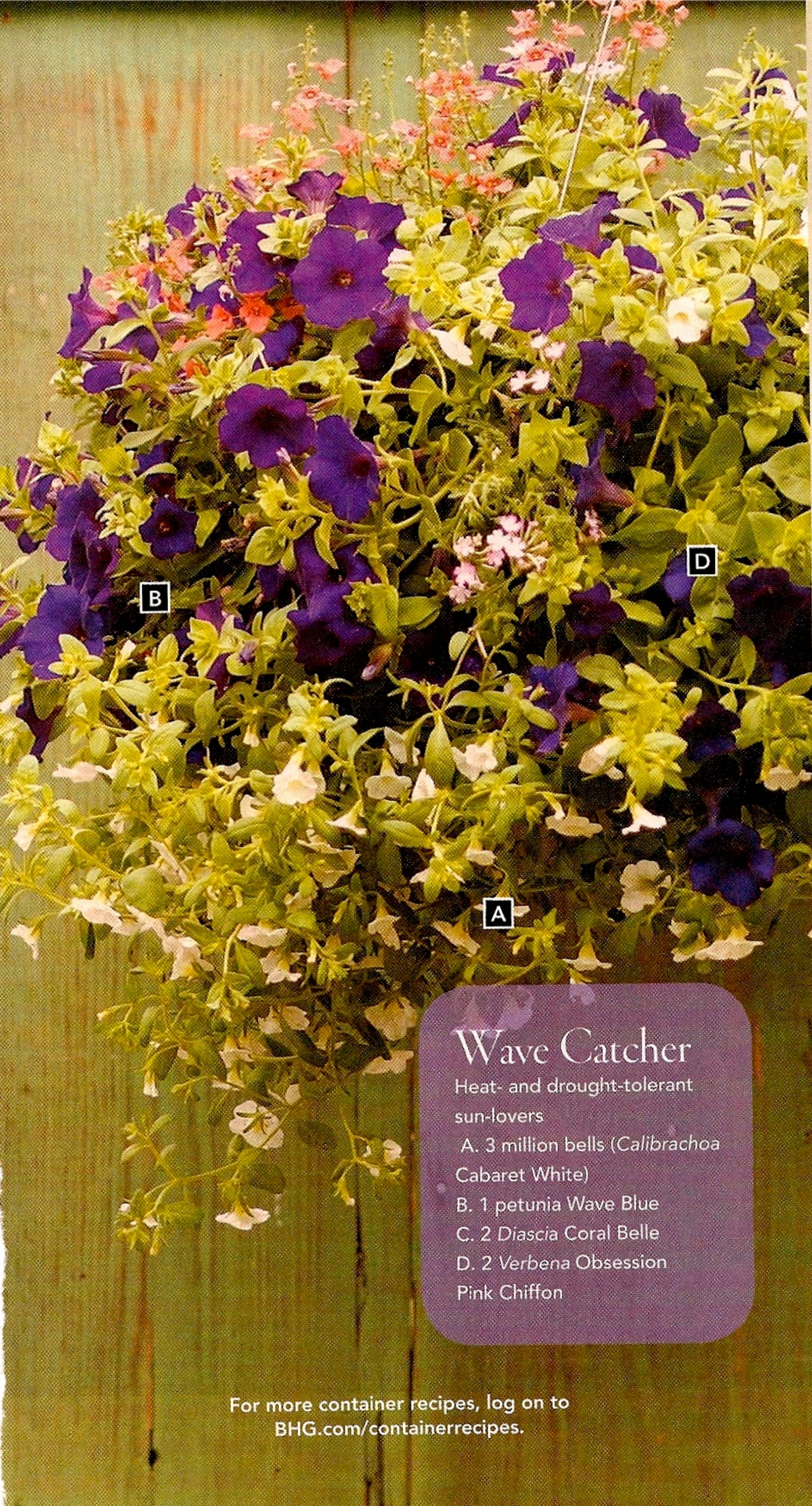
C. 3 million bells (*Calibrachoa Cabaret* Hot Pink)

Garden Medley

Nonstop summer color in sun or part shade

- A. 1 streptocarpella
(*Streptocarpus* 'Concord Blue')
- B. 2 *Osteospermum* 'Orange Symphony'
- C. 3 bacopa (*Sutera* 'Snowfalls')





Wave Catcher

Heat- and drought-tolerant sun-lovers

- A. 3 million bells (*Calibrachoa Cabaret White*)
- B. 1 petunia Wave Blue
- C. 2 *Diascia Coral Belle*
- D. 2 *Verbena Obsession Pink Chiffon*

For more container recipes, log on to BHG.com/containerrecipes.

Line wire baskets with sphagnum moss, coco fiber, or plastic. Sphagnum moss and coco fiber are porous, so they will dry out more quickly than plastic; however, the softer materials make it possible to poke planting holes around the outside of the basket.

STEP 2: ADD SOIL

Fill the basket with a lightweight potting mix. Buy a packaged mix or make your own with equal parts peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite. Some prepackaged mixes contain slow-release fertilizer, allowing you to forgo semiweekly treatments with a quick-acting, water-soluble fertilizer. Mix in water-absorbing crystals or line the container with a water-absorbing mat to maintain moisture. Fill the soil to within an inch or two of the rim for ease in watering.

STEP 3: PLANT THE BASKET

Choose a single kind of flower or a combination of plants for your basket. To get a full, balled effect, choose compact, bushy varieties. When using multiple species, include tall, midrange, and trailing forms for variety. Place taller plants near the center and trailing plants along the edges. Try to include plants of varying bloom sizes.

STEP 4: WATER WELL

Water the soil mix thoroughly after planting. Thereafter, you may have to water daily in hot weather. Lifting a basket is a quick way to judge if it needs water. The lighter the basket, the drier the soil. If the basket dries out during the season, the top of the soil may crust over. Break open the crust and rewet the soil ball thoroughly.

STEP 5: PROVIDE AFTERCARE

Encourage a spherical shape by pinching off the main shoot of a plant when it reaches the desired height. This will encourage growth of side shoots. Rotating containers once a week allows all flowers to receive equal exposure to sunlight. Deadhead spent blooms and pinch back leggy plants. Check soil moisture often; on hot days, you may need to water twice.

BY KIMBERLY MITCHELL