August
Your Northwest guide

GARDEN WE LOVE
YEAR-ROUND BEAUTY
With plantings as lush as these, you'd never miss
the lawn that once covered this Roseville, California,
backyard (above). Landscape designer Roberta
Walker packed the beds
with colorful textural and
blooming perennials
including silvery Artemisia
'Powis Castle', chartreuse
Colozaema 'Sunset Gold',
white-striped 'Cosmopolitan'
eulalia grass, lavender,
pale blue-flowered plumbago, structured
'Thunderhead' pine, and
wisp Mexicán weeping
bamboo. The best part?
These showy plants need
minimal water and practi-
cally no maintenance.
"You can relax in your
garden and really enjoy
it," Roberta says.
—JULIE CHAI
DESIGN Roberta Walker
Landscape Design
(www.robertawalker.com)

MUST-HAVES
SUMMER READING
Learn all about the farmers
and florists behind the
local-flower movement in
The 50 Mile Bouquet (St.
Lynn's Press, 2012; $18)
by Debra Prinzing and
David E. Perry; customize
your backyard with DIY
creations using Lorene
Edwards Forkner's
Handmade Garden Projects
(Timber Press, 2011; $20);
and find organic solutions
for problems you're
having with your crops in
What's Wrong with My
Vegetable Garden? (Timber
Press, 2011; $25) by David
Deardorff and Kathryn
Wadsworth.

Choose plants
and learn more about
your zone:
sunset.com/plantfinder

To-do list
☐ For color in a sunny
spot, try compact Echinacea
purpurea 'Sombrero
Hot Pink', which tops out
at just 21 inches.

☐ When you plant cool-
season vegetables this
month, include two new
kale hybrids: 'Petit Posy'
resembles brussels
sprouts but has kale
florets instead of sprouts,
and 'Purple Peacock'
produces broccoli heads
and kalelike leaves.

☐ Hoe weeds before they
go to seed and replicate
themselves.

☐ Keep caterpillars from
eating your crops by
applying Bacillus thuringi-
ensis (Bt) in the late after-
noon or under cloudy
weather (it breaks down
in sunshine). It won't
harm beneficial insects.

☐ Keep harvesting your
edibles. Frequent picking
discourages rot and
encourages continued
production.

☐ For a large bulb selec-
tion, order from B & D
Lilies (bulbibles.com) and
Brent and Becky's Bulbs
(brentandbeckys.com).