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## **G'day Garden!**

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Fall is a great time to add new plants to your garden. And when you're looking for those new additions, don't overlook the latest and ever expanding offerings from Australia and New Zealand. We're all familiar with the New Zealand flax (*Phormium*), but in addition to new eye-catching varieties of flax there are lots of other plants you should consider. Many plants from this part of the world thrive in our "Mediterranean" climate, giving your garden the same low-maintenance, draught-resistant benefits of Mediterranean favorites like lavender and rosemary and our own California natives. What's more, many of these Down Under darlings bloom in winter and early spring, bringing a shot of color to your winter landscape. But wait...there's even more! As an added bonus, many are also deer resistant!

Three of my favorites are *Grevilleas*, veritable hummingbird magnets that range in height from ground covers to small trees; *Leucadendrons* (Cone Bush), with their long-lasting dramatic foliage perfect for bouquets; and *Correas* (Australian Fuchsia), which bloom in the winter and grow well in both sun and dry shade (perfect for under oak trees).

If you're in the mood for an idea-generating field trip to see these and other stunners on display, head towards Santa Cruz. Sierra Azul Nursery and Gardens ([www.sierraazul.com/](http://www.sierraazul.com/)) in Watsonville has not only a nursery but also a lovely demonstration garden where you can enjoy a lunch and see how the plants look in the landscape.

Another beautiful location to pack a lunch and dine amongst the hummingbirds is the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum ([www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum/](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum/)). It has the largest collection of Australian and New Zealand plants outside of their respective homelands and a gift shop where you can purchase plants to put in your own garden.

If you want to stick closer to home, perusing the San Marcos Growers' website ([www.smgrowers.com/](http://www.smgrowers.com/)) is a wonderful way to start your new plant investigations and your autumn gardening.