



Aussie Annabelle Hickson excels at breezy floral arrangements that rely on foraged finds. She also makes life on a pecan farm look sweet (take a peek at her Instagram feed, @annabellehickson).



Makita 22"/18-V LXT Cordless hedge trimmer. \$155. Through The Home Depot.

# Fresh START

Get a jump on gardening with advice from our favourite green thumbs.

Text by WENDY JACOB

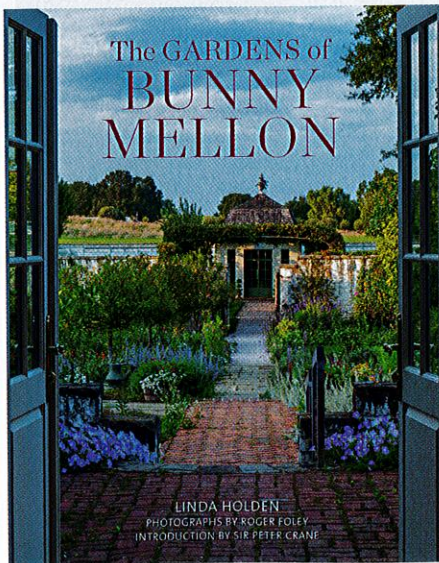
## TIME FOR A TRIM

This gardening essential gives floral guru Annabelle Hickson superpowers.

Annabelle Hickson, flower arranger and author of *A Tree in the House: Flowers for your Home, Special Occasions and Every Day* (Hardie Grant Books, 2019) says using her cordless Makita hedge trimmer on ornamental grasses helps her garden spring back to life. "My garden is one big, wild prairie made up almost exclusively of perennials. I have heaps of ornamental grasses — *Miscanthus*, fountain grasses and *Panicum* — which all need to be cut right down. There's nothing I find more satisfying than charging up the hedge trimmer and razing everything to the ground — like some kind of superwoman — only for the plantings to gloriously come back with new shoots in the spring."

## BUNNY TALES

A must-have new book from a gardening legend.



The late American heiress Rachel "Bunny" Mellon led a charmed life that revolved around creating stunning gardens for her own far-flung homes, as well as for her good friends John F. Kennedy and Hubert de Givenchy. Written by Linda Holden, the book will inspire gardeners who might not own a property like Oak Spring Farm, the Mellons' 1,618-hectare Virginia estate. These pages are full of jaw-dropping photos, growing tips and drawings of planting beds. Bunny often used grey foliage to make the colour of other blooms really pop: try *Artemisia arborescens* 'Powis Castle,' 'Silver Dust' dusty miller and *Artemisia ludoviciana* 'Silver King.' Vendome Press, 2018, \$75.

## New Blooms

SavvyGardening.com blogger Tara Nolan's top flowers for 2019.



**'BABY ROSE' NASTURTIUM**  
"You can eat the petals, they are pollinator magnets, and they can also be used as a trap crop for aphids. 'Baby Rose' is perfect for small spaces."



**'CHINOOK SUNRISE' ROSE**  
"It's hardy and low-maintenance, with a centre that recalls Pantone's Colour of the Year, Living Coral."

Photography by Roger Foley (The Gardens of Bunny Mellon cover)/courtesy of A Tree in the House, Hardie Grant Books, 2019 (cover)/All-America Selections (nasturtium)/Vineyard Research and Innovation Centre (rose)