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Better Homes and Gardens.

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30 to give away
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Rustic style

Natural and free-flowing in style, this small backyard still possesses a sense of drama, thanks to its collection of clever highlights. Groups of stunning silver cacti, a unique stone sculpture and a rusted metal-look wall all serve as creative, contemporary features, while crushed granite flooring and ultra drought-hardy plants fulfil the garden's other requirement – minimum maintenance.

- 1. If you're not including lawn** in a garden design, there are other techniques for adding a splash of vivid green. Try this cute idea, and plant mounds of *Scleranthus biflorus* within a sea of rust-red gravel. Easily grown in a sunny spot, it needs little care apart from watering during hot weather.
- 2. Get your walls and borders** organised first, then add in the highlight features. The fabulous rusty metal-look wall which encloses the back of this garden is actually made from marine plywood, painted with a rust-finish paint. Add geometry to the scene by including matched feature plantings on both sides of the space – here the extraordinary silver torch cactus (*Cleistocactus strausii*) does the job perfectly. And to finish, add a focal point like this eclectic stone sculpture.
- 3. Design features do double service** in space-challenged gardens. This raised cactus garden sits on top of the letterbox!
- 4. Choose a strong signature paint** colour to give a small area of the garden its own personality.
- 5. Combine decorative gravels** with mounding succulent plants, like ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum* species), to create garden schemes which are colourful but extra low maintenance. Here, a slab of rusty steel has been laid as a ground feature, mimicking perfectly the effect of a muddy bushland stream.

Garden design, Richard Bellemo, call 0408 032 947 or visit www.rblandscapes.com.au

TRY THIS
Include raised stone garden beds with broad top capping so they double as seats. Just add a few waterproof throw cushions.

Create an area which is just as good for living



in as it is for looking at

