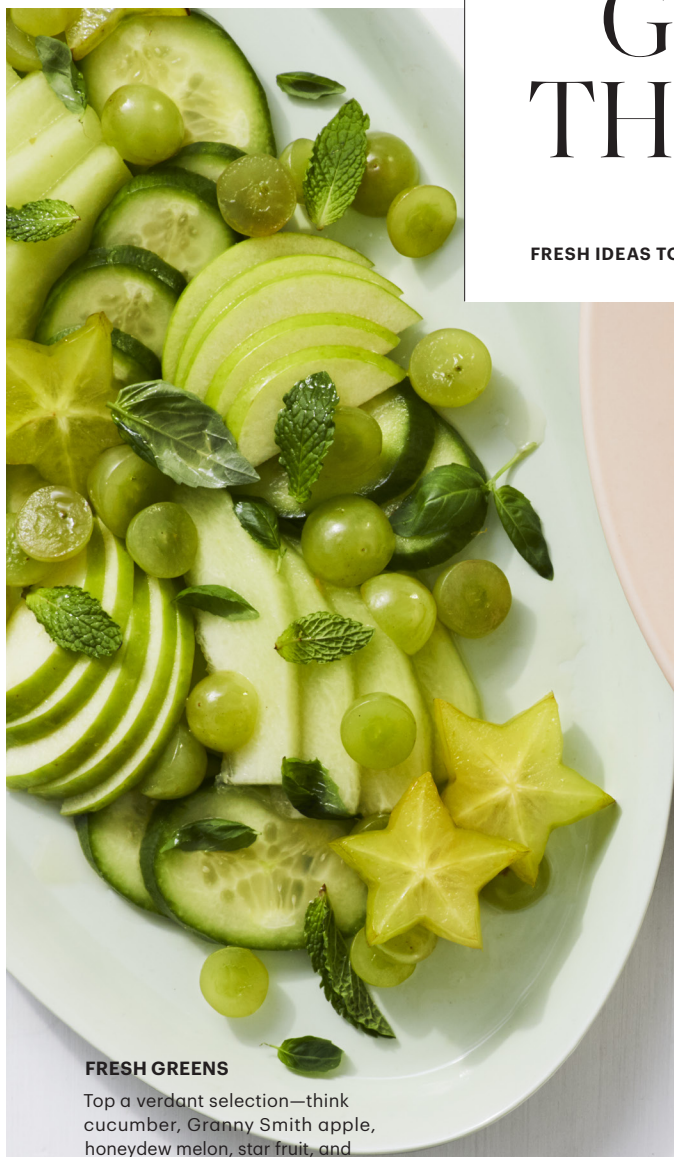


Good THINGS

FRESH IDEAS TO ELEVATE THE EVERYDAY



FRESH GREENS

Top a verdant selection—think cucumber, Granny Smith apple, honeydew melon, star fruit, and green grapes—with mint, basil, and honey-lime dressing.

| RECIPE REMIX |

Party on a Plate

You volunteered to bring the fruit salad. Assemble one of these stunning—and unexpected—single-hued creations, and you'll fulfill your duties with flying colors. Drizzle it with a savory, spicy, or sweet dressing to boost the spectrum of flavors, and come dessert time, you'll be guaranteed double-takers, too. For the recipes, turn to page 119.

TEXT BY ELENI N. GAGE

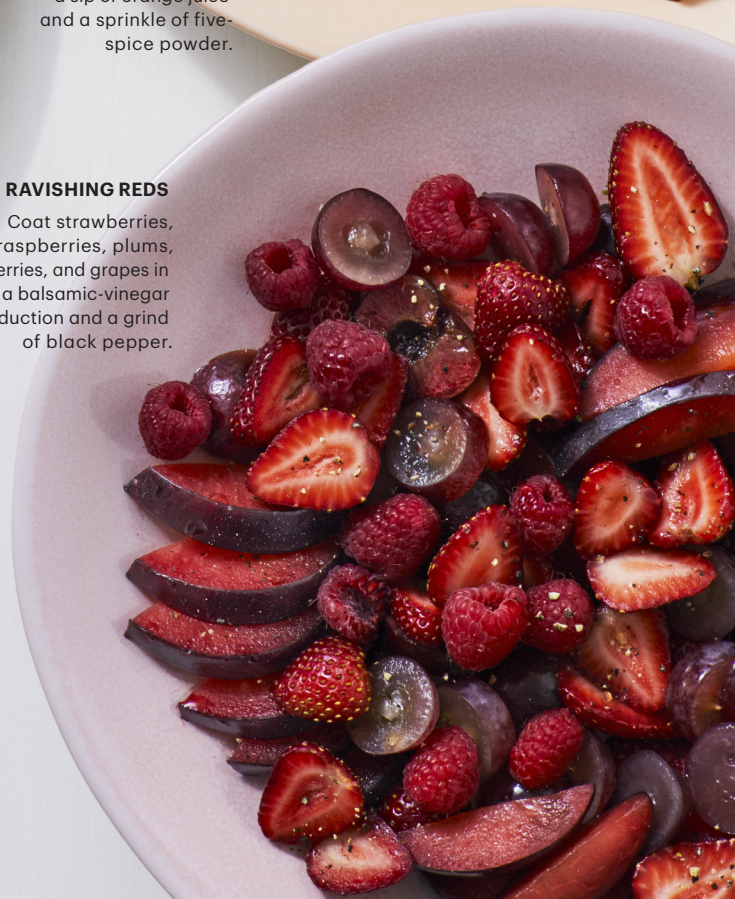


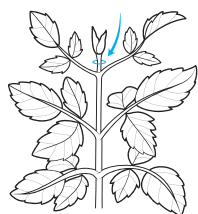
SUNNY ORANGES

Give peach, orange, mango, pineapple, golden raspberries, and passionfruit seeds a sip of orange juice and a sprinkle of five-spice powder.

RAVISHING REDS

Coat strawberries, raspberries, plums, cherries, and grapes in a balsamic-vinegar reduction and a grind of black pepper.





Find the leader stem, and cut right below it. Dahlias and zinnias are also prime candidates for this pruning technique.

GUATEMALA

NICARAGUA

ETHIOPIA



| VERY GOOD THING |

Major Perks

Our test kitchen runs on coffee—and the food editors have sampled their fair-trade share of brews. But the beans from Elève, a new company that helps support its growers' communities, are currently putting pep in their recipe prep. *Living* senior food editor Lauryn Tyrell loves the Guatemala blend: "It's nicely balanced, with a super-chocolaty finish." Plus, when the bag's empty, you can compost it.

THE DETAILS: Elève Nicaragua and Guatemala, \$13 for 12 oz.; and Ethiopia, \$14 for 12 oz., elevacoffee.com.

| IN THE GARDEN |

< Budding Talent

Getting a trim won't make your hair grow faster (myth busted, Mom). But snipping certain flowering plants, like these cosmos, the right way prompts them to grow wider and bushier and produce more blossoms. Such annuals are known as "cut and come again" flowers, because they proliferate all summer long. Plant after the last frost, and when stems are four to six inches long, cut or pinch off the tallest, heartiest branch (called the leader stem) right above a pair of leafing branches. After they start blooming, go ahead and clip bouquets—you'll encourage more flowers.