

Container Contenders: Perennials and Annuals for Classic Containers

Containers are becoming the easy and fun way to garden if you are short of time or space. They can be used to add color and height to your garden, as well as make your patio or deck an inviting place to be. In order to be successful with your containers, we have some simple rules to follow to keep your gardening experience fun and successful. By combining perennials and annuals together, you can have all season color and enjoy an array of different textures, shapes, and containers that we have available.

- Pick your container to fit the location it will be placed: too small will get lost, too large will be out of proportion.
- When selecting your plants, choose not based only on color, size and texture, but on basics such as light and moisture requirements.
- Make sure that your containers have holes in the bottom. If they do not, you may drill holes with a masonry bit, or plant in a plastic pot to fit inside your container, removing it to water and replacing after it drains.
- Use a soil-less container potting mix. Soil-less mixes keep your container well-drained, and that is very important for your plant's health. You can use a mix with fertilizer already in it or you can fertilize on your own. Remember the included fertilizer won't last forever!
- Dampen the mix before planting by watering sparingly and mixing by hand until it is just damp. Do not miss this step!
- Remove plants from their pots and gently coax the roots apart. If they are very tight, or root-bound, you can "butterfly" the roots with a sharp soil knife and spread them apart.
- Arrange the plants in your container, taking into consideration the final sizes of the plants, placing taller specimens in the center or back.
- Cover the roots with soil to the same level as in the original containers. Cover with enough soil to leave about an 1" from the top of the pot. This will allow you to water sufficiently without washing soil out of the pot.
- Water thoroughly with a root stimulator, such as Root n' Gro, and place the container in its spot.
- Water your containers when they are dry. Some pots may need water every day, especially during periods of high heat and drought. Check your pots for water with your finger or an inexpensive moisture meter. You may have to water containers daily in mid-summer; in spring and fall when temperatures and evaporation are low, you may water less frequently.
- In winter, you can put your containers in the garage and water once a month. (You will probably still have to replace the annuals.) Or you can remove perennials and plant in the ground to enjoy next year.



Shade Plants That Like**It Drier:**

Tiarella
Hellebore
Lamium
Coleus
Heuchera
Brunnera
Lobelia
Begonia
Torenia

Sun Plants That Like**Average Moisture:**

Coreopsis
Daylily
Fescue
Geranium
Veronica
Plumbago
Yarrow
Isotoma
Hibiscus
Sweet Potato Vine:

Sun Plants That Like**It Drier:**

Sedum
Artemisia
Monarda
Gallardia
Dianthus
Euphorbia
Salvia
Snapdragons
Moss Rose
Portulaca
Zinnia
Cosmos

Shade Plants That Like**More Moisture:**

Ligularia
Spiderwort
Creeping Jenny
Astilbe
Carex
Galium
Hosta
Impatiens
Elephant Ears
Coleus
Ferns
Caladium

