

FALL CONTAINER GARDENING

September is the perfect time to revitalize your container gardens to keep them looking fresh and exciting over the fall and winter months. Summer annuals are starting to get tired and they are saying please replace me! Look for foliage, structure, twig color, interesting shape – anything that catches your fancy over the winter months. We still will follow the same ideal container commandments – pick a ‘thriller’ to use as a centerpiece, some ‘fillers’ to add texture, foliage and color, and some ‘spillers’ to accentuate the other plants you have chosen and soften the edge of the container. If you have some permanent elements in your container already – those can be freshened up and left alone. Summer annuals can be removed and composted. Want flower power for the fall/winter/early spring? Pansies and Violas don’t care how cold we get and will bloom all through the winter months into spring. Other ‘annuals’ (like million bells for example) bloom strong through the fall until we get a hard frost. They can be pulled later and replaced with Pansies/Violas as well if you want winter bloomers.

Some additional tips for the container garden:

- Use a good organic Potting Soil like our Edna’s Best from EB Stone Organics to ensure optimum nutrition and drainage. Have old tired potting soil? Replace it with fresh soil and your plant selections will grow much better!
- When you are planting a ‘permanent’ planter consider mixing 1/3 EB Stone organic planting compost with 2/3 Edna’s Best organic potting soil. This will help achieve maximum drainage and the compost will add a bit more longevity to the mix. For example – Japanese Maple, Conifer specimen containers.
- Use an organic fertilizer Rose and Flower food from EB Stone Organics – the perfect container food that gently keeps things looking sharp in your container over the winter months. Try Ultra Bloom from EB Stone as well for some extra flower power. Mix some in your pot when you plant and water in well after plants are planted. It can be reapplied on the surface and watered in every 6 weeks to maximize bloom and foliage.
- Be sure to look at some pot risers or pot feet for your containers – especially if you are on a hard surface like concrete or wood. These will make sure the container drains properly and you won’t get the circle stains on your entrance landing, driveway, patio or deck!
- Consider using some Sluggo (organic slug control) in the pot to control slugs if you desire during wet months. Another option is using copper tape around pot edge – slugs will not cross it and container is safe from slug damage!
- Pay attention to sun and shade. Shade plants should be grouped together, sun plants grouped together, or plants for part sun/part shade can be used with either.
- Look at watering needs – make sure you select plants that like similar amounts of water so that every one of your container specimens are happy and healthy.
- Pick plants that you can relocate into your garden in a few years so then you can start again
- See next page for plants to consider for fall/winter containers – focusing on hardiness, foliage, fall/winter interest...

PLANTS FOR CONTAINERS IN SUN

Plus many, many other options

Thrillers

Conifers
Dracenas
Drimys
Grasses
Japanese Maples
Juniper*
New Zealand Flax
Sky Pencil Holly
Taxus*
Twig Dogwoods
Wilma Cypress

Fillers

Cabbages & Kales
Coprosmas
Dusty Miller
Dwarf Rhododendrons
Euphorbia
Heather
Hebe
Heuchera & Heucherellas
Hypericum
Lavender
Nandina
Ornamental Peppers
Pieris
Sedums
Vacciniums

Spillers

Cotoneaster*
Creeping Jenny
Euonymus*
Helichrysum
Ivy
Lonicera*
Mondo Grass*
Moss
Oregano*
Pachysandra
Sedums
Succulents
Thymes
Wire Vine

***Different varieties have different growth habits**

PLANTS FOR CONTAINERS IN SHADE

Plus many, many other options

Thrillers

Acuba^
Camellias^
Conifers
Fatsia^
Grasses
Japanese Maples
Mahonia^
Sarcococca^
Sky Pencil Holly^
Twig Dogwoods

Fillers

Beesia
Bergenia
Cyclamen
Evergreen Ferns
Grasses
Hellebores
Hemlock*
Heuchera & Heucherellas^
Leucothoe
Mahonia
Sarcococca
Vacciniums
Wintergreen

Spillers

Cotoneaster*
Creeping Jenny
Euonymus*
Ivy
Lonicera*
Mondo Grass*
Moss
Pachysandra
Sedums^
Succulents^

^Can take partial shade

***Different varieties have different growth habits**