

# DIY

## Container Gardening

If you are looking for instant gratification for your entryway, patio, or balcony, you should consider trying container gardening. Container gardening is trending and with good reason. It's easy, it gives you great flexibility when transitioning from season to season, and it offers endless opportunities for creative expression. Plus, container gardening is applicable from flowers, to vegetables, and even herbs. Container gardening is perfect for gardeners of all ages and abilities, and it's wonderful for both homeowners and home renters.

Ready to give container gardening a try? Below are some easy to follow steps for putting together a container.

**Step One-Know Your Light:** Six or more hours of direct sunlight means you will need to look for plants that have "full sun" marked on the tag. Four hours or less of direct sun, stick to plants that have "part-sun or part-shade" marked on the tags. Our garden center heads group plants together by sun or shade loving to help make selecting plants easier.

**Step Two-Choose Your Container:** When selecting a container, make sure the diameter and height of the container will work for that area. It can be any make, material, or color you wish. Preferably, it has drainage holes, but drainage material, such as gravel, non-dissolving Styrofoam peanuts, or smaller overturned grower's pots will work well. If you are looking to fill a larger corner, consider using two or three different planters of varying heights to create tiered layers of color.

**Step Three-Prepare the Soil:** Fill your pot with Miracle-Gro Potting Mix or Miracle-Gro Moisture Control Potting Mix. Form a mound of soil, leaving the top inch or two for watering space and plant soil. Remember, it's easier to add soil around plants once they are planted, rather than scooping away.

**Step Four-Choosing Plants:** When choosing plants, remember this simple design rhyme "thriller, spiller, filler". Select one Thriller. This is the focal point, the wow, the eye catching plant that provides height and drama. Select one Spiller. This can be a trailing plant that softens the container's edge or otherwise extends your design of the pot. Select three Fillers. They provide an exciting connection between the thriller and the spiller and often take the form of your favorite bushy, mounded, flowering or foliage plants.

Of course, if you don't have time to create your own container, White's also carries an extensive selection of pre-made planters for your grab-n-go convenience.