



Fine Gardening's

# CONTAINER GARDEN IDEAS

DESIGNS TO FIT  
ANY MOM'S  
STYLE!



## Good day, sunshine

This container, designed by the staff at Chanticleer, in Wayne, Pennsylvania, accentuates the pastels and colors of spring with a harmonious combination of early-flowering plants. The pink, yellow, coral, and white of the ranunculus pick up on the colors of the pansies, all rounded out by the golden rays of dogwood stems.

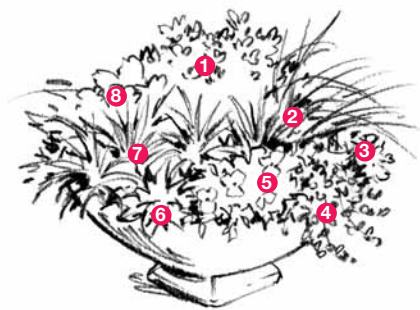
- 1. Yellowtwig dogwood stems** (*Cornus sericea* 'Flaviramea', Zones 3–8)
- 2. La Belle Mix ranunculus** (*Ranunculus asiaticus* La Belle Mix, annual)
- 3. 'Frizzle Sizzle Yellow/Blue Swirl' pansy** (*Viola* × *wittrockiana* 'Frizzle Sizzle Yellow/Blue Swirl', annual)



## White always catches the eye

Flowers don't need to be big to attract attention. White always draws the eye, as it does in this pot, pulling viewers in to notice the delicate interplay between the various colors and forms that such a wide container can hold.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1. Compact Innocence® nemesia</b> (<i>Nemesia fruticans</i> 'Tiktoc', annual)</p> <p><b>2. 'Evergold' sedge</b> (<i>Carex oshimensis</i> 'Evergold', Zones 6–9)</p> <p><b>3. Irish moss</b> (<i>Sagina subulata</i>, Zones 4–7)</p> <p><b>4. Creeping wire vine</b> (<i>Muehlenbeckia axillaris</i>, Zones 8–10)</p> | <p><b>5. Violas</b> (<i>Viola</i> cvs., annual)</p> <p><b>6. 'Black Scallop' ajuga</b> (<i>Ajuga reptans</i> 'Black Scallop', Zones 3–9)</p> <p><b>7. 'Icicles' licorice plant</b> (<i>Helichrysum thianschanicum</i> 'Icicles', Zones 10–11)</p> <p><b>8. 'Citronelle' heuchera</b> (<i>Heuchera villosa</i> 'Citronelle', Zones 5–9)</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|





## Encourage plants to play well together

Low-growing succulents allow their larger counterparts to take center stage in this simple planting. While a tree aeonium can stand on its own, the echeveria and blue chalk sticks add extra interest and diversity. The combination is made even more striking by the deep red container that picks up on the tips of the aeonium and contrasts beautifully with blue.

- 1. Tree aeonium**  
(*Aeonium arboreum* var. *atropurpureum*, Zones 9–11)
- 2. Blue chalk sticks**  
(*Senecio mandraliscae*, Zones 10–11)
- 3. 'Topsy Turvy' echeveria** (*Echeveria runyonii* 'Topsy Turvy', Zones 9–11)
- 4. Blue rose echeveria** (*Echeveria imbricata*, Zones 9–11)



## Fewer colors, more flair

We love this container for its simple yet effective look, its small plant and color palette, and its fashionable flair. Sheila envisions the phormium as a mop of hair and the tillandsia as a jaunty beret. The tillandsia is an air plant, which doesn't even need soil. Sheila's face planter was made by Campania International ([www.campaniainternational.com](http://www.campaniainternational.com)).

1. **'Thumbelina' phormium** (*Phormium* 'Thumbelina', Zones 8–11)
2. **Tillandsia** (*Tillandsia xerographica*, Zone 11)

## Cold-hardy annuals are showy and inexpensive

Although pansy-centered pots are beautiful, the money-conscious gardener might still find it tough to spend the cash on shrubs and perennials for these spring containers. For folks who like to pinch their pennies, why not plant a variety of inexpensive, cold-hardy annuals and a perennial pansylike violet, instead?

1. **'Purple Showers' horned violet** (*Viola cornuta* 'Purple Showers', Zones 6–8)
2. **Soprano® White osteospermum** (*Osteospermum* 'Osjamwhit', annual)
3. **'Aromatica Royal Blue' nemesia** (*Nemesia fruticans* 'Aromatica Royal Blue', annual)
4. **'Emerald Lace' plectranthus** (*Plectranthus oertendahlii* 'Emerald Lace', Zone 11)





## Simple pots support lavish plantings

A simple container allows its plants to do the talking. Brimming with color, this modern pot lets the many shapes and textures of the plants, from the papyrus to the aeonium to the New Zealand flax, stand out.

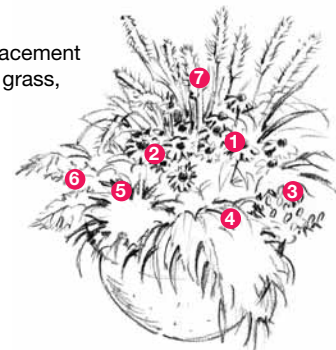
- 1. King Tut® papyrus** (*Cyperus papyrus* 'King Tut', Zone 11)
- 2. Flowering maple** (*Abutilon* cv., Zones 8–11)
- 3. 'Zwartkop' aeonium** (*Aeonium arboreum* 'Zwartkop', Zones 9–11)
- 4. Sweet potato vine** (*Ipomoea batatas* cv., Zone 11)
- 5. Coleus** (*Plectranthus scutellarioides* cvs., Zone 11)
- 6. Superbells® Coralberry Punch calibrachoa** (*Calibrachoa* 'USCAL66501', annual)
- 7. 'Wilma's Gold' trailing golden rosemary** (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Wilma's Gold', Zones 8–11)
- 8. 'Flamingo' New Zealand flax** (*Phormium cookianum* 'Flamingo', Zones 8–11)



## Lime lights up dark plants

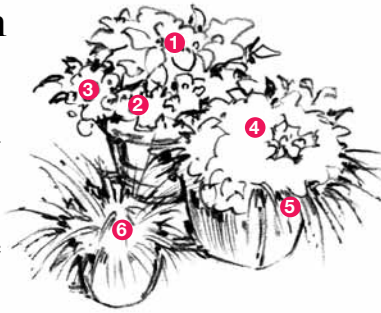
Without a shot of citrus front and center, this planter might fade into the background. But the placement of the lime Japanese forest grass draws attention to the orange coneflower, the purple fountain grass, and the red berries of St. John's wort.

1. **'Flame Thrower' coneflower** (*Echinacea* 'Flame Thrower', Zones 4–9)
2. **Sombbrero® Hot Coral coneflower** (*Echinacea* 'Balsomcor', Zones 6–9)
3. **Hypearls™ Olivia St. John's wort** (*Hypericum* 'Hypearls Olivia', Zones 6–9)
4. **'Aureola' Japanese forest grass** (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola', Zones 5–9)
5. **Black mondo grass** (*Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens', Zones 6–11)
6. **Autumn fern** (*Dryopteris erythrosora*, Zones 5–9)
7. **Purple fountain grass** (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum', Zones 8–11)



## Match your design to the mood

A patio should be fun and relaxing at the same time, and your containers can help achieve this mood. What is more fun than bright flowers, like these petunias? And all of the plants, especially the fiber-optic grass, have relaxed habits.



1. **'Sedona' coleus** (*Plectranthus scutellarioides* 'Sedona', Zones 12–13)
2. **Supertunia® White petunia** (*Petunia* 'Kakegawa S30', annual)
3. **Supertunia® White Russian petunia** (*Petunia* 'Kerivoryvein', annual)
4. **Sweet Caroline Raven sweet potato vine** (*Ipomoea batatas* 'NCORNSP015SCPI', Zone 11)
5. **Fiber-optic grass** (*Isolepsis cernua*, Zones 8–10)







## This thriller is a spiller, too

Trained on a metal hoop, the rex begonia vine makes an excellent centerpiece for her entry. The remaining plants highlight both the purple tones in the vine's leaves and the purple-glazed pot.

- 1. Rex begonia vine**  
(*Cissus discolor*, Zone 11)
- 2. Purple shamrock**  
(*Oxalis triangularis*, Zones 6–10)
- 3. Shadow Dancer™ Ginger fuchsia**  
(*Fuchsia Shadow Dancer™*  
Ginger, Zones 9–11)
- 4. Velvet Moon™ wishbone flower**  
(*Torenia fournieri Velvet Moon™*,  
annual)



## A bold planting for passersby

The designer of this container lives on a busy corner where bikers and runners admire his garden as they pass by each day, so he designed a bold planting that was sure to be noticed. The strong contrast between the forms of the upright canna and the fluffy cabbage and kale creates plenty of interest. The red tones in these plants' foliage give them something in common. The green leaves of the creeping Jenny complement the red hues and complete this exuberant composition.

- 1. Tropicanna® canna**  
(*Canna* cv., Zones 8–11)
- 2. Ornamental cabbage and kale** (*Brassica oleracea* cvs., annual)
- 3. Golden creeping Jenny**  
(*Lysimachia nummularia* 'Aurea', Z 4–8)

### TIP

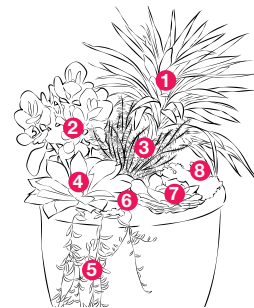
*Think of planters as accents for an outdoor room. Just as you would coordinate colors for a living-room decor, be sure all outdoor items complement the style and colors of your outdoor rooms.*



## Shaped for optimal viewing

Notice the three surfaces of this container: vertical at the back, with the dagger plant and kalanchoe; horizontal in front, with the echeverias; and another vertical plane down the pot's front, with the string of beans. Set up this way, every succulent is visible from head to toe.

1. **'Purpurea' dagger plant** (*Yucca aloifolia* 'Purpurea', Zones 12–13)
2. **Kalanchoe** (*Kalanchoe grandiflora*, Zone 11)
3. **Rattail** (*Crassula muscosa*, Zone 11)
4. **'Afterglow' echeveria** (*Echeveria* 'Afterglow', Zones 9–11)
5. **String of beans** (*Senecio radicans*, Zones 8–11)
6. **'Cape Blanco' sedum** (*Sedum spathulifolium* 'Cape Blanco', Zones 5–9)
7. **'Blue Rose' echeveria** (*Echeveria imbricata* 'Blue Rose', Zones 9–11)
8. **'Ogon' sedum** (*Sedum makinoi* 'Ogon', Zones 6–9)



# Learn what to grow and how to grow it

All of the inspiration and advice  
found in the magazine straight to your  
tablet or smart phone.

Visit [FineGardening.com](http://FineGardening.com)

**SAVE UP  
TO 44%**  
with a  
subscription  
to FG digital  
editions



## The best **NEW PLANTS** —| for |— **2018**

BY DANIELLE SHERRY

**F**or gardeners, what's the equivalent of unwrapping a bunch of presents on Christmas morning? Finding out what amazing new plants are being offered this season, of course. This year features quite a few perennials and shrubs that sport better drought tolerance, enhanced coloring, or even greater disease resistance than ever before. Some of the genera may be familiar, but others (like *Coreopsis*, photo, pg. 26) could be mind-blowing. This year's new