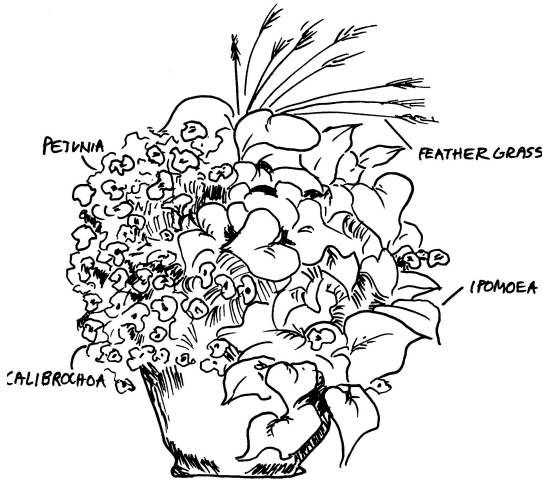


## COLORFUL CONTAINER GARDENS



Container gardens offer endless possibilities for **small spaces** or as **focal points** in larger landscapes. Containers range from traditional pots to buckets with holes, or cast-off boots!

How much **water** a container needs will depend on its size and material - is it porous or glazed pottery, metal, wood or plastic? Be sure you have a **handy water source**.

Here are a few easy recipes for **annual flower and foliage combinations** that use plants listed in **Growing Tips 22 + 23**, as well as other plants especially useful for containers.

### Recipes for Success

#### For Sun – at least 6 hours of sun:

These may need twice **daily watering**, depending on weather conditions.

#### Medium container- 15” – 24” diameter

Use slightly different shades of the same flower color with the dark vine:

**Petunias** -2 plants, same color: yellow, or lime, or violet

**Trailing Petunias (Calibrochoa)** - 2 plants, same color: yellow, or lime, or violet

**Sweet Potato Vine** - 1 plant, purple or “black”

#### Large container – larger than 24” diameter

**Marigold (French Marigolds)** - 4 plants, 2 each of different color patterns.

**Salvia** – 2 plants, blue, indigo or violet

**Ornamental Pepper** - 1 plant

**Feather Grass (Stipa)** - 1 plant

#### Window Box - 24” long

**Geranium** – 3 plants – bold pink

**Verbena** – 2 plants, dark blue, indigo or violet

**Dusty Miller** - 2 plants, silver

#### For Shade - less than 6 hours of sun:

Check water needs daily.

#### Medium container - 15” – 24” diameter

**Wax Begonia** – 3 plants, pink

**Bloodleaf (Iresine)** – 2 plants, dark purple

**Lobelia** – 4 plants, light blue

#### Large container- larger than 24” diameter

**New Guinea Impatiens** – 2 plants, coral or salmon

**Wishbone Flower (Torenia)** – 3 plants, yellow

**Coleus** – 2 plants, multi - copper, yellow, green

**Sedge** - 1 plant, golden-brown

#### Window Box – 24” long

**Rieger Begonia** – 2 plants, pink

**Rex Begonia** – 2 plants, multi - dark with deep pink

**Browalia** – 3 plants, white

### Seven Simple Steps:

1. **Choose a soilless mix** designed for container growing for best results. Avoid using garden soil.
2. **Ensure good drainage.** Shield holes in the bottom of the container with pebbles or pottery shards to prevent blockage.
3. **Moisten the mix lightly** before planting.
4. **Fill the container – not tightly!** – to within several inches of the top rim.
5. **Plant transplants 3” – 8” inches apart.** Adjust for container size and mature plant size.
6. **Fertilize** with a water-soluble or a slow release product according to directions.
7. **Water with care. Check daily!** → See **Growing Tips 6** Watering New Plantings

### Color, Height, Texture

- **Color ideas:** Choose **complementary colors** such as yellows and blues, or **monochromatic** selections such as shades of pinks or earth tones.
- **Height:** Combine **trailing** and **spilling** plants with bushy or **filler** plants. In larger containers, add tall **vertical** grasses or **climbers** on supports.
- **Texture:** Mix it up with ruffled plants, big leaved, narrow leaved, and stiff, spiky plants. Combine tiny and large **flowers with foliage plants**.

### Tips

- **Elevate pots** on supports or wheeled platforms to allow for drainage and prevent mold and staining of surfaces.
- **Empty pottery containers before hard frost** to prevent cracking.



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