

THE LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS

Your design and installation team



Simply Elegant Pots

Container gardening can be one of the most rewarding ways of gardening. A simple pot or spectacular ornate urn that has been planted up with the right combination of plants and flowers can turn into a work of art.

Here are some basic rules for container gardening:

1. It's your garden so use any container you want or can get your hands on!
2. There are very few plants that cannot be grown in a suitable size container. Even trees and shrubs can do well in large containers.
3. Once you plant up your containers, you must never neglect them, as they do require some maintenance.
4. Containers look better in a group. Because pots are easy to move around, you can always change the look of the garden just by switching your pots around. Always take a look and see if you need a spot of colour on your deck or in the garden, and then choose a brightly glazed pot and plant it up to match or contrast with the pot colour.
5. Grow permanent plants in your pots, but combine single season plants for spring, summer and fall colour.
6. Provide winter protection for your pots, as any plant can freeze if the temperature drops down low.
7. Don't plant permanent plants in overlarge container; they will not like to sit in water soaked soil for the winter. Only repot when the root ball has reached the sides of the pot or for slow growing plants – root and top prune ever few years.
8. Don't be afraid of using lots and lots of containers, on your decks, the stairs, in the garden beds, beside the doors, on the walls, railings and roof tops, well maybe not the roof! Try not to get too many different types of pots, it is best to stick to mostly clay or glazed or plastic!
9. The main thing that I can never say enough is make sure the pot, container, bucket, or what ever, has good drainage. This may mean drilling holes or putting at least 3-4 inches of rock in the bottom for drainage.

There are benefits to container gardening, but also a few downfalls. The containers if small can dry out in the heat, on a sunny afternoon. Permanent plants may out grow the container and you will have to get new ones. However the benefits out weigh the downfalls.

Mobility – containers can be moved around, in or out of the sun, from the front to the back yard and back again.

Flexibility – containers allow you to garden where there is no soil, on a large deck, walkways, balconies, around townhouse and mobile homes. Grow plants that would not grow in your zone because of weather.

Protection – the soil in containers warms up faster and therefore plants are ahead of schedule compared to the ones in the ground. Container-grown plants are less likely to be attacked by slugs. In the fall tender plants can be moved inside.

Aesthetics – a pot of summer colour can lighten up a dark corner in the garden or fill in a bare spot. Containers can serve as focal point, whether on the ground, hanging from a wall or on a pedestal. Pots bring plants closer to eye level and allow trailing plants to tumble over the side.

Container gardening allows you to enjoy flowers, vegetables, herbs and water gardens up close. The size of plant will depend on the size of the pot and where you put the plant is important as well. Whether it is a sunny or shady location, if you have a small area then you do not want to use large containers that will overpower the space and vice versa, tiny pots will be lost on a large patio.


For your basic containers you have Terra Cotta pots in all sizes and shapes, Glazed Ceramic pots and urns, Plastic pots, urns, window boxes and many more, Wire baskets, Concrete planters, Wooden boxes, hanging baskets, etc.

But there is many more that you may not think of as containers. Here is some food for thought: tea pots, old rusted out buckets, rubber boots, wooden clogs, sinks, toilets, bath tubs, coffee and tea tins, packing crates, animal watering troughs, ladders, chairs, stools, old wheel barrels, toy trucks, little red wagons, and on and on the list can go. The point is to be inventive and try planting up what you have!

Choosing the right plants can make or break the look of the container. The wrong colour, size of plant, too fast of growing plant, even plants that all have the same texture and colour can become boring from a distance.

Three-season interest planter: (24" pot) this planter will give colour in the spring, summer and fall, as well as interesting, contrasting foliage.

Plant List			
Code	Plant Name		No. to Buy
A	Siberian iris	<i>Iris sibirica</i>	2
B	Lamb's ear	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	2
C	Mum	<i>Dendranthema xgrandiflorum 'Pam'</i>	1
D	Dianthus	<i>Dianthus 'Spring Beauty'</i>	1
E	Licorice plant	<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>	1
F	Cigar flower	<i>Cuphea ignea</i>	2
G	Santolina	<i>Santolina pinnata neapolitana</i>	1
H	Globe amaranth	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	3
I	Chive	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	3



Grasses with their fine feathery texture always add elegance to a pot or container. Many grasses give year round interests, with late summer and fall being their showiest time. With such a wide selection of colour and heights in the grasses, you are sure to find one or two for your pots.

Tropical textures container: (16" pot) this bold, sun loving pot will give you that tropical look without leaving home. Great pot for around pools and ponds.

Plant List			
Code	Plant Name		No. to Buy
A	Portulaca	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	4
B	Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>	2
C	Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i> 'Radiation'	1
D	Ginger	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	1
E	Canna	<i>Canna xgeneralis</i>	4

Formal accent container: (18" urn) this lovely pot will look great at the entrance to the house or just off the deck, you may want two?

Plant List			
Code	Plant Name		No. to Buy
A	Golden dew drop lilac	<i>Duranta erecta</i>	1
B	Mexican heather	<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	4
C	Hardy geranium	<i>Geranium</i> 'Johnson's Blue'	2
D	Water hyssop	<i>Bacopa</i> 'Snowstorm'	1
E	Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> 'Moonbeam'	1
F	Sweet potato	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> 'Blackie'	2
G	Asparagus fern	<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i> 'Sprengeri'	6
H	Ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> 'Adriatic'	4