



# Unique Garden Centre

## CONTAINER GARDENING

*Every where you look, people have these lovely containers full of flowers and other interesting plants.  
Want to know some of their secrets?*

The newest trend in gardening is containers. Yes containers have been around for ions, but now we are breaking all the rules and the use of containers has modernized. Armed with the knowledge of a few tricks, you too can have the perfect container tucked into that “Wow, who’d a thought to put it there”.

### Nine Ways To A Better Container Garden

1. Get flamboyant with the container! Go Large. Go Bold. **Bigger IS better!**

A larger container holds more soil which holds more water and nutrients and allows for better root development which results in a larger, better floral show. And while you are at it, remember that the container itself should be attractive and fit the décor. So Think Big!

2. What’s in the Dirt.

Get the dirty on the dirt and your container is bound to be a success. Most of our secrets are hidden in the dirt. The tips are quite easy but important. Number one – never use garden dirt. Garden dirt is too heavy and holds too much water. Drainage is so much more important in a container. This is accomplished by using a high quality potting soil. It will have a high organic content which helps the soil hold the right amount of water without holding too much (a cause of root diseases). Nutrition too is easier to maintain in a container with a good soil mix. Here are the real tricks though. Add polymer crystals to soil (1 tsp will do an average sized container). The crystals swell to hold extra water every time you water and release it slowly back into the soil as the soil dries. If you mix in some slow release fertilizer now, you will not need to fertilize as much in the summer. Finally add mycorrhizal fungi to the bottom of the planting hole when planting. The fungi form a symbiotic relationship with the roots to produce more vigorous plants for you to enjoy.

#### ***Sample Soil Recipe For Containers:***

3 parts organic potting soil  
1 part perlite  
1 part well rotted manure  
1-3 tsp polymer crystals  
Mycorrhizal Fungi (based on the # of plants)

3. Think outside the box.

Containers don’t have to be limited to your deck or front steps or used for just flowers. Many of our annual flowers are perennials elsewhere in the world so why limit yourself to regular annual flowers. Use a large cedar to add height and greenery behind your flowering pots on a large deck or other hardscape area. Try a fast growing shrub with interesting foliage such as elder or dogwood. Just remember that you are treating these plants as annuals as they will not survive in

color when there is a lull in perennial flowering.

#### 4. Going Up.

If your landscape is young or limited in space, try elevating your pots by hanging them, or placing them on stands. There are so many attractive stands to choose from that it is easy to fill that expanse of fence or garage wall with a hanging plant. Wander around our garden centre and take a look at what new and interesting container accessories we have. The ideas are endless.

#### 5. Plant Combos.

Around the garden centre we have suggested plant combinations to help out those that want some help with ideas. If you like to experiment though, just remember these tips, choose plants with similar light and watering requirements, keep your height and interest perspective by choosing plants with various sizes and texture. Don't forget to have a focal point or color theme to your planter.

#### 6. When to Water.

Water when the plants need water. This is generally when the top 1" of soil is dry to touch. How fast your container reaches this point is dependent on a number of factors, location of the pot (sun or shade), temperature, size of container, soil quality and if it was properly watered the last time. Check your containers every day (twice when it is hot) and when they need water be sure to water thoroughly to ensure that the entire soil is hydrated. Plants that like to be kept moister should be watered when the soil surface is dry and for drought tolerant plants, wait until the top 2" is dry. This is a guide only, experiment a little to find a system that works for you.

#### 7. Food for Plants.

The rapidly growing plants in your containers will soon need some extra fertilizer for food. Mix in slow release fertilizer before planting, then you feed weekly for spectacular results. Feeding is important as the soil has no means of acquiring nutrients other than what you feed it, plus every time you water, some of those nutrients are washed out the bottom and need to be replaced. Feeding is what takes your containers from nice to *spectacular!*

#### 8. Spotlighting

If you like being out in your yard in the evening, try putting a spotlight on a container for a couple of extra hours of enjoyment every day. This technique is especially useful for those with very busy lives and it is not until after dark before you have time to sit and enjoy nature. Spotlighting gives you a whole new perspective of your surroundings.

#### 9. Rotation

We all know that by the end of August, our containers are either looking tired or have been touched by frost. Plant a fall container. While you are enjoying your summer containers, your fall container is growing as well, then when your summer container is showing signs of exhaustion, you add some Indian corn and gourds to your fall container and presto – your home is gorgeous again. Use plants such as flowering kale, pansy, lobelia, petunia, blue salvia, snap dragons, dianthus, diascia (my favorite), vinca vine etc. These can take some light frost and still look gorgeous. Don't forget about annual grasses with their pretty seed heads and rustling sounds.



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SHADY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Reiger Yellow Begonia</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Blue Bells Browallia</b>	2
Filler	<b>Fuchsia Shadow Dancer</b>	1
Trailer	<b>Silver Nettle Vine</b>	1



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Angelface Angelonia</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Princess Series Dianthus</b>	2
Filler	<b>Silver Lace Dusty Miller</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Superbells Calibachoa</b>	1



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SHADY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Coleus Soar Sunrise</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Pink Impatiens</b>	2
Filler	<b>Nico Swedish Ivy</b>	1
Trailer	<b>Lobelia Rose Cascade</b>	3



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Rocket Snapdragon Yellow or Bronze</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Lemon or Orange Gem Marigold</b>	2
Filler	<b>Golden Sage</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Golden Azke Sanvitalia</b>	1



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SHADY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Stella D'Oro Daylily (hardy)</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Solar Storm Coleus</b>	1
Filler	<b>Penny Series Pansy</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Golden Creeping Jenny</b>	3



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Nicotiana Saratoga Red</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Osteospermum Spring Star</b>	1
Filler	<b>Silverlace Dusty Miller</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Portulaca Swedish Ivy</b>	1 each



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## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Blue Horizon Ageratum</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Scaevola Blue Shamrock</b>	2
Filler	<b>Diascia Pink or Rose</b>	1
Trailer	<b>Limelight Licorice Vine</b>	3



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## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SHADY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Ostrich Fern (hardy)</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Impatiens</b>	2
Filler	<b>Border Lobelia</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Lamium Golden Anniversary (hardy)</b>	1



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Blue Oat Grass (hardy)</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Princess Series Dianthus</b>	2
Filler	<b>Blue Anagalis</b>	1
Trailer	<b>Kenilworth Ivy &amp; Petite Licorice Vine</b>	1 each



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Pink Geranium</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Skylover Blue Anagallis</b>	2
Filler	<b>Tri-color Sage</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Lamium 'White Nancy'</b>	1



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Lemon Symphony Osteospermum</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Nemesia Blue Lagoon</b>	2
Filler	<b>Pink Superbells Calibrachoa</b>	1
Trailer	<b>Yellow Bidens</b>	3



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SHADY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Variegated Spider Plant</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Rose non Stop or Reiger Begonia</b>	2
Filler	<b>Tri-color Potato Vine</b>	3
Trailer	<b>White Lobelia</b>	1





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## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>PART - SHADY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Coleus Soar Sunrise</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Nierembergia</b>	2
Filler	<b>Swiss Giant Mixed Pansy</b>	1
Trailer	<b>Swedish Ivy</b>	3



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## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Dwarf Dahlia</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Yellow or Bronze Snapdragon</b>	3
Filler	<b>Nemesia</b>	1
Trailer	<b>Sweet Potato Vine</b>	1



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Heliotrope</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Supertunia</b>	2
Filler	<b>Yellow Marigold</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Canary Bird Vine</b>	1



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Geranium</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Princess Series Dianthus</b>	3
Filler	<b>Alyssum</b>	1
Trailer	<b>Trailing Lobelia</b>	2



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SHADY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Tuberous Begonia</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Impatiens</b>	3
Filler	<b>Swiss Giant Pansy</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Trailing Lobelia</b>	3



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Focal plant	<b>Pink Tuberous Begonia</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Blue Browallia</b>	1
Filler	<b>Torenia</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Trailing Lobelia</b>	2



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Geranium</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Annual Aster</b>	2
Filler	<b>Diascia</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Creeping Jenny</b>	1



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Coleus</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Calibrachoa Superbells</b>	1
Filler	<b>Ageratum</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Verbena &amp; Bacopa</b>	1 each



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Site Location	<b>SHADY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Stella D'Oro Daylily</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Impatiens</b>	2
Filler	<b>Asparagus Fern</b>	2
Trailer	<b>Fuchsia</b>	2



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>PART - SUNNY</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Osteospermum</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Calibrachoa Million Bells</b>	2
Filler	<b>Diascia</b>	2
Trailer	<b>Hedera (Ivy)</b>	2



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>SHADE</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Heuchera 'Amber Waves'</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Calibrachoa Superbells</b>	2
Filler	<b>Border Lobelia</b>	2
Trailer	<b>Lamium 'White Nancy'</b>	2



## CONTAINER RECIPE CARD

Site Location	<b>PART SUN</b>	# of plants for a 14-20" pot
Focal plant	<b>Geranium</b>	1
Mass flowering	<b>Godetia</b>	3
Filler	<b>Salvia Victoria Series</b>	3
Trailer	<b>Hedera (Ivy)</b>	3

### **Points to remember!**

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#2 - Add polymer crystals to soil (1 tsp will do an average sized container). The crystals swell to hold extra water every time you water and release it slowly back into the soil as the soil dries.

#3 – Use slow release fertilizer in the soil. You will still want to fertilize weekly, but the slow release fertilizer gives continuity.

#4 - Finally add mycorrhizal fungi to the bottom of the planting hole when planting. The fungi form a symbiotic relationship with the roots to produce more vigorous plants for you to enjoy.

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