


## Year Round Container Ideas

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- Select your container. Plastic and recycled paper “pulp” pots are lighter and easier to lift and move. Terracotta is heavier and in cold weather can crack and break if wet. Protect terracotta in severe cold weather by wrapping or moving into a protected area. Glazed stoneware is a beautiful option.
  - Select your plants based on sun or shade conditions where you wish to place your container. A mix of evergreen, deciduous, and seasonal plants will provide you with year round interest. Choose from dwarf conifers, evergreen shrubs, perennials, herbs, ornamental grasses, ground covers, succulents, small flowering bulbs and seasonal annuals. A few plant suggestions are on the other side of this paper.

I like this formula: “Thriller-Filler-Spiller”

Thrillers: Choose one tall plant for a dramatic centerpiece

Fillers: Choose one colorful plant to fill in around the thriller

Spillers: Choose one or two trailing plants

- Select a good quality potting soil. Potting soil is specially formulated for plants growing in containers. I like to use Black Gold All Purpose or EB Stone Edna’s Best potting soils. For best results, do not fill your containers with ground soil, straight planting compost, or used potting soil. Refresh your container annually with new potting soil or organic matter such as earthworm castings.
- Fill the bottom of the container with potting soil. Mix in a spoonful of fertilizer. Fertilizer helps your plants by giving them nutrients they need to generate their own food. Fertilizer will help your plants bloom longer. I like to use EB Stone Sure Start Fertilizer or Osmocote Indoor and Outdoor Plant Food. Fertilize throughout the growing season with a liquid fertilizer. I like to use Maxicrop (liquid seaweed) or Fox Farm Big Bloom.
- Water your container when it dries out. Check the soil moisture by sticking your finger down a few inches into the soil. If it feels dry, the container needs water. Do not overwater your container. Also, remember during cold and windy weather plants dry out. During the hot dry weather of summer you can add Zeba Quench to the soil to help retain moisture.



• **Plant Suggestions for Year Round Containers**

**Cool Season Annuals for Fall & Winter Containers:**

	Pansies	Violets	
	Cordyline		
Mums		Dusty Miller	Asters
Rudebekia		Ornamental Peppers	
Ornamental Kale		Ornamental Cabbage	

**Spring Flowering Bulbs (If applicable, choose dwarf varieties):**

Daffodils	Tulips	Alliums	Hyacinth
Ranunculus	Anemone	Watsonia	

**Evergreen Perennials & Small Shrubs:**

*Hebe*  
*Calluna* "Heather"  
*Erica* "Heath"  
*Sedum* "Stonecrop"  
*Sempervivum* "Hens & Chicks"  
*Buxus suffruticosa* "Dwarf Boxwood"  
*Libertia*  
*Euphorbia*  
*Lonicera nitida* "Box Honeysuckle"



**Evergreen Ground Covers:**

*Vaccinium macrocarpon* "American Cranberry"  
*Vinca major* "Periwinkle"  
*Ajuga* "Carpet Bugle"

**Mostly Evergreen Fragrant Herbs:**

Lavender	Santolina
Thyme	Sage
Rosemary	

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