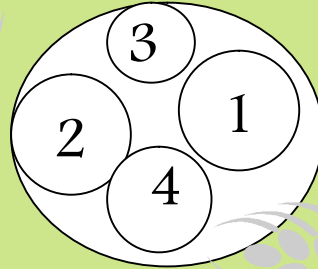


Recipe Card for the
Container Design of the Month
Designed by Suzy Hancock at Portland Nursery

July

Design of the Month



1 2 3 4

Simple Water Gardens

Tropical plants

1. *Cyperus haspan viviparous*
2. *Houttuynia cordata 'Variegata'*
3. *Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'*
4. *Marsilea quadrifolia*

Hardy Plants

1. *Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'*
2. *Myosotis scorpioides*
3. *Sarracenia leucophylla*
4. *Ranunculus flammula*

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Water Garden Made Easy:

You don't need a pons or an enormous wine barrel to enjoy a water garden. These simple containers create a charming water garden with very little maintainence. Using hardy plants will enable it to be left outdoors year round, or if you use tropical plants just move it to a warmer area indoors for the winter. Using 4" plugs enables you to use a variety of plants for different effects. Just remember to keep your planter topped off with water.

Steps:

1. **Container selection:** The container should hold water. There are many products to waterproof containers, and plug holes. I find that starting out with a water tight container keeps it simple.
2. **Pea gravel:** I like a smaller size of pea gravel because it holds the plants in place better, and still provides space for roots. Rinse pea gravel before using to clean off any foreign matter.
3. **Planting the container:** For hardy container plants I like to use 4" pots (its important that these plants have been grown for water plant use). Place a layer of pea gravel in the bottom of the container to a level that is appropriate to the plant. Take plants out of their pots and set on top of the gravel, filling in around them with more gravel. Once all the plants are in top off with a slight layer of gravel.
4. Fill container with water. While most water plants would like rain water or unchlorinated water, I have yet to have any problems using regular tap water.

Care and Maintenance:

Depending on temperature and sun exposure, the container may need to be topped off with water as often as once a day. Fertilizing can be done using one of the water plant lines of fertilizers. In four years I have not once fertilized the hardy planter and it still flourishes. Light annual grooming and keeping water levels up are about all the maintenance needed.