

UNIQUE SMALL GARDEN IDEAS

Easy Solutions to Making Your Containers One-of-a Kind

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- Containers offer the versatility of creating unique plantings in small spaces. You can change the entire look of your garden by repositioning your pots, adding unusual features, and treating colour in a special way.
- First, decide why you are planting up containers – e.g. colour for spring/summer effect, fragrance, evergreens for 12-month interest, to create a stunning view from the inside looking outward, to soften an outdoor space and make it inviting
- Plant so that you can turn your containers in any direction
 - be creative – reposition your containers every month
 - create different heights on which to place containers
 - to visually enlarge space, plants should not be placed parallel to perimeter
- Use garden art or dramatic architecturally-shaped containers
 - murals
 - art
 - wall fountains
 - sculpture
 - simple outdoor lighting
- Select plants to emphasize dominant background shape using a variety of silhouettes
 - select plants that change in shape, size, colour, and features for 12-month interest
 - consider – date of bloom, height, colour, bloom density, foliar contribution, growth habits (vertical - *Delphinium*, horizontal - *Achillea*, mounded - *Hosta*, fan - *Yucca*, creeping - *Vinca*), and amount of maintenance required (does it suit your lifestyle?)
- Colour – decide base theme colour to coordinate with background
 - *monochromatic* – tints, tones, & shades of 1 colour → romantic effect
 - *complementary* – opposites on colour wheel (yellow-purple, orange-blue, yellow-blue, red-yellow/green) → dramatic effect
 - *adjacent* – next to each other on the colour wheel (mauve-purple-blue) → comfortable effect
- Create a focal point in 1 container, or 1 focal point in a group of containers – can be colour or shape
- If viewing from inside the house towards the outside, then consider using either a material (e.g. terra cotta, stone, ceramic, etc.) or colour to coordinate with the indoors
- Select containers to create interesting groupings – repetition of plants within 1 container or within group of containers
- Unusual features – create plant tables, fences, walls, incorporate benches so that you are part of the garden
- Make your front and back entrances welcoming
- Use mirrors to reflect individual containers, or place mirrors opposite each other to make the space seem endless