



J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift and Garden Center

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Container Gardening using Thrillers, Fillers, & Spillers!

Growing Beautiful Patio Pots is easier than you think. It all starts by selecting the proper plants, for the conditions you have to grow them. Be sure to choose plants with the same sunlight, and water requirements, when selecting plants for your container plant designs.

If you are placing your pot where you will see it from every side, begin with a thriller for the center of your pot, use fillers to surround that, and finish with spillers to cascade down over the pot's edge.

If your pot will be up against a wall, use your thriller at the center-back of the pot, with fillers in front, followed by the spillers at the pot's edge. The only limit to your design, is your imagination. Record your successes, and failures, for future attempts.



Photo Credit: Proven Winners



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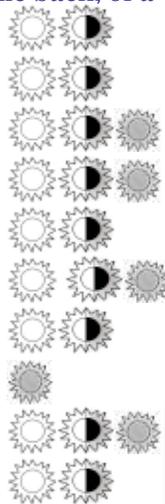
Some of Debbie's favorites:

Sun  Partial Shade  Shade 

Thrillers

This group of plants should grow to be at least 12"-15" tall. Thrillers are generally put either in the center, or at the back, of a container. They are the main focal point.

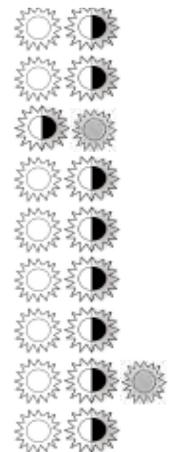
- Blue Salvia
- Celosia
- Coleus
- Cordyline
- Dahlia
- Draceana Spikes
- Dusty Miller
- Ferns (many)
- Fountain Grass
- Canna



- Geranium (zonal)
- Herbs (12"+)
- Hosta
- Marigold (12:+)
- Nicotiana
- Salvia
- Snapdragon (12"+)
- Sprenger Fern
- Zinnia (12"+)



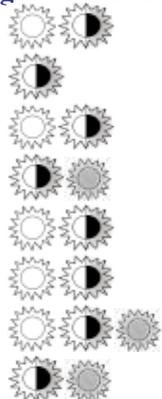
Spillers Fillers Thrillers



Fillers

This group of plants should stay shorter - less than 10" tall. Fillers tend to be more rounded or mounded plants. These plants fill in the middle ground of the combination. Use them to add complementary texture and color.

- African Daisy
- Ageratum
- Argyranthemum
- Begonia
- Brachycome
- Celosia
- Coleus
- Coral Bells



- Geranium (seed started)
- Gomphrena
- Helichrysum (licorice plant)
- Herbs (5-10")
- Hypoestes
- Impatiens
- Marigolds (5-10")
- Osteospermum

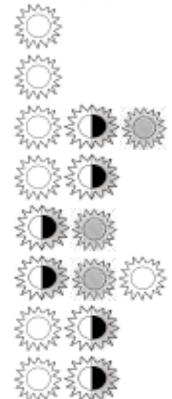


Photo Credit For All Planters: Proven Winner Company

Sun 

Partial Shade 

Shade 

Dahlia (Dwarf)



Dusty Miller



Gazania



Fuchsia (upright)



Pansy



Petunia / Surfinia



Vinca



*Photo Credit For All Planters:
Proven Winner Company*

Spillers

Spillers are trailing plants that hang over the edge of the planter. They ‘Finish The Container’ by softening the edges and tying the design elements together. They break up straight lines to produce a more natural appearance.

Alyssum



Asarina



Bacopa



Bidens



Brachycome



Browallia



Calibracoa



Creeping Jenny



Diascia



English Ivy



Fuchsia (trailing)



Herbs (some)



Helichrysum



Inch Plant



Ivy Geranium



Lamium



Lantana



Licorice Vine



Lobelia



Lotus Vine



Nasturtium



Nemesia



Petunia



Plectranthus



Portulaca



Scaevola



Sedum



Senecio Vine



Snapdragon (cascading)



Sweet Potato Vine (Ipomoea)



Tahitian Bridal Veil



Thunbergia (Black eyed susan vine)



Torenia



Verbena



Vinca vine



Rule of Thumb: Generally a 12” pot can fit six plants (one thriller, two fillers and three spillers). Remember, plants grown in pots need significantly more water and fertilizer than those grown in the ground, since they aren’t getting any moisture, or nutrients from the soil.

Read our ‘Container Gardening Handout’ for more information about starting, planting, and caring for your ‘thriller garden’, in your container.



More Resources

<https://www.provenwinners.com/Container-Design>

<http://www.provenwinners.com/learn/container-garden-design-structure>

<http://landongreenhouse.com/info/assets/How%20To%20Handouts/ContainerGardenPlantsDescriptions.pdf>

<http://www.hgtv.com/design/outdoor-design/landscaping-and-hardscaping/how-to-design-a-container-garden>

“Think of your container garden as a miniature flower garden or floral arrangement. Color, texture, balance, and unity all apply, just on a very small scale. You’ll work with 3 design elements to make your container garden stand out: Vertical accents, trailing plants, and filler plants to make the container garden seem lush and inviting. Use a vertical accent to provide scale with the pot and surrounding environment. Trailing plants can also keep container plantings in scale. Trailing vines and flowering plants help connect the plantings to the pot while softening its structure. Use medium-sized plants for filler. These plants bridge the tall and short plants, add lots of interest, and showcase the focal points of the arrangement.”

<http://www.scotts.com/smg/goart2/Thrillers,+Fillers,+and+Spillers+Container+Garden+Design/1880004///>