

Creating The Perfect Patio Pot

The key to a successful patio pot is to start with an artful combination of plants and keep them healthy and colourful all season long. Not only do patio pots make a bright statement they also are the perfect accessory for your home. Here are 7 easy steps to help you design & create the perfect patio pot!

Step 1: Find The Perfect Spot

For your patio pot location you will want to take into consideration its surroundings. Factors such as sun and wind play important roles. Plants, like people, have specific needs to grow and thrive. Knowing where you are placing your pot and the external conditions of that location will make it much more effortless when you have to choose your plants. You may also want to consider how easily accessible it is. Remember it should be reachable by a watering can or hose and be accessed for plant maintenance if necessary.

Most importantly, put it somewhere clearly visible so you can enjoy it all summer long!



Step 2: Pick A Pot

Ensure your pot has drainage holes or create your own if necessary. Drainage holes are very important to prevent root rot or overwatering. Pot size is another important factor. The diameter and depth will determine how many plants you can use. Leave room for plant growth and do not overcrowd it. Make sure your pot is deep enough so their roots have room to grow as well. The larger the pot the more moisture it holds.

Step 3: Create A Theme

In order to create a perfect patio pot, you must first start by selecting a colour scheme. Be sure to take into consideration the colours surrounding your final pot destination. If there are other plants nearby such as in a garden bed, it is always a good idea to coordinate with those colours so that the area flows nicely. Another factor you may want to consider is the colour of your house. Take note to the colour of brick, stone, or stucco you have which may collide with the colour you want. When choosing colours the options are endless. Keep it simple with a solid colour, add depth by incorporating different shades and leaf textures or make it unique by choosing multiple colour combinations. Your colour palette is up to you! Have fun with it!

Step 4: Thrillers, Fillers & Spillers!

Here comes the fun part, choosing your plants! By becoming aware of external factors ie, sun exposure, quantity of plants and colours, you are organized and know what to look for. All the plants you choose must follow the criteria you need for its location.

The basic blueprint to a patio pot is to include Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers.

Thrillers:

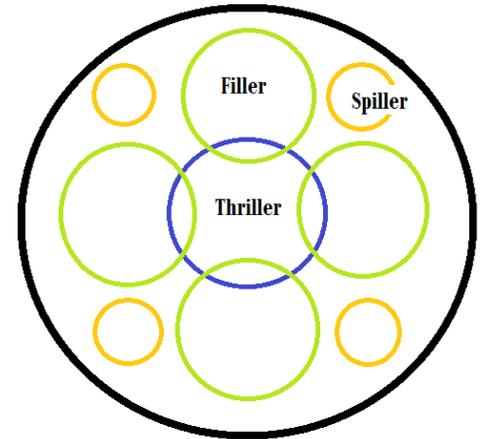
- Add height and drama
- Typically the focal point of your pot (planted center or back)
- Examples: ElephantEars, Tropicals, Red Star Spikes, Ornamental Grasses

Fillers:

- Mounded growth habit
- Purpose is to make container look full
- Add dimension & texture – stick with one variety or mix it up!
- Examples: New Guinea Sun Impatiens, Geraniums, Euphorbia Diamond Frost, Rieger Begonia

Spillers:

- Trailing plants that hang over the edge
- Can be foliage or flowering, vigorous or compact
- Examples: Potato Vine, Bacopa, Calibrachoa, Setcreasea



It is always fun to try something you have never grown or experiment with the latest varieties!

Step 5: Planting

Almost Done...

First, fill your patio pot with a rich, soil blend such as Miracle-Gro Moisture Control Potting Mix. Next, arrange your plants before you begin to plant. This will visually show you where each plant goes, making it easier when you begin planting. You will want to plant the thriller first, at the back or in the center of the pot. Plant all of your fillers next, either around or in front of the thriller. Lastly, plant the spillers near the edge of the pot all spreading them all around or keeping it at the front. You may need to top up your pot with additional soil to fill in any holes.



Planting Tip: Plant as deep as the original pot it was in. The top of the plant's soil should be flush with the top of the patio pot soil.

Step 6: The Hard Work Is Done!

Immediately after planting give your Perfect Patio Pot a nice drink of water! This will prevent the plants from transplant shock and will help with root establishment.

Now sit back and enjoy all season long!



Step 7: One More Thing....

To ensure you truly have the Perfect Patio Pot, some maintenance may be required. Depending on the varieties of plants you chose, you may need to trim or [dead head](#) every few weeks. This will keep your plants always looking their healthiest. Like people, plants get hungry too! Routine fertilizing is a must to ensure they look their biggest and best at all times. Slow release fertilizer can be spooned directly on top of the soil which lasts several weeks or months or apply liquid feed every seven to fourteen days.

Planting Tip: Take a photo of your patio pot to help you remember the following year which plants worked for you.

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