

## 1. Take stock of your container and its location:

<p><b>Dimensions:</b></p> <p>Height: _____ inches/cm (A)</p> <p>Width: _____ inches/cm (B)</p> <p>Colour: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p><b>Sunlight in this spot:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Less than 6 hours of direct sun = <b>Shade</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> More than 6 hours of direct sun = <b>Sun</b></p>	<p><b>Sketch the container shape here:</b></p>
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## 2. At the store, select plants for your container from each of the three categories below.

Choose one thriller plant and then enough spillers and fillers to span the width of the container (measurement B). Ensure that the plants are suitable for the sunlight levels you have available. Write the names of the plants in the boxes as a reference for next year.

### Thriller:

*Tallest plant in the arrangement. Mature height of plant should be up to (Ax2) \_\_\_\_\_ inches/cm.*

### Fillers:

*Plants that will fill in the space between the thriller and spiller.*

### Spillers:

*Plants that will hang over the edge of the container.*

## 3. Before you check out, group the plants you selected together on your cart or on an open spot on a counter at the store, and consider:

**Do you like what you see?**

**Do you have:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colour echoes?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of leaf sizes and textures? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colour from foliage and not just flowers?     | <input type="checkbox"/> Compatible water and light needs?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enough plants for the size of your container? |  |

## Creating exceptional plant combinations

*The best container plantings don't just consist of random thriller, filler and spiller plants but in selecting plants from each category that play together well on several levels. Here are some things to look for to make your container plantings fabulous:*

### Colour echoes

Choosing plants that have a common colour running through them for an arrangement ties them together visually in a very strong way. The common colour element doesn't have to be dominant on the plants (e.g. it could be that the colour of the veins on the leaf of one plant pick up the colour of the stem of another, which also matches the colour in the centre of a flower) to have an impact—it's a ribbon of consistency woven through the container.

### Mixed leaf sizes and textures

Selecting plants with a variety of leaf shapes (fine/small, large, toothed, smooth edged) creates more visual interest than having all of one type of leaf shape. The same applies to textures—you can find plants with leaves that are smooth, glossy, spikey and even furry.

### Colour from foliage as well as flowers

Flowers are one source of colour in an arrangement but leaves (foliage) offer another opportunity for colour, and not just different shades of green. If you choose to rely on flowers for colour, make sure you've selected a plant with flowers that will bloom all season, and not just for a few weeks unless you plan to switch out those plants when they're done blooming.

### Colour of plants contrasts or compliments the container

The colour of your container will affect how your arrangement looks—aim to select plants that compliment or contrast with the container. *Tip:* If your plant pot is white, ensure that at least one of the plants in your selection has a white leaf or flower.

### Compatible light and water needs

Ensure that all of the plants you've selected all need the same kind of growing conditions. This means double checking that they're all plants for sun or shade (depending on your site) and that they all require similar amounts of water. A drought tolerant succulent plant and a very thirsty plant won't be happy together in the same pot—you can't just water half of it.

### Sufficient quantity of plants

Full planters are fabulous planters! Make sure you have enough plants for the size of your container. They will grow over the season, but you don't want to wait until September to have a good looking planter.