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Container Gardening Throughout the Year

Hosted by:



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*Learn more about many of the plants included in tonight's webinar in the **PLANT DIRECTORY** on my website.*



SPRING FLOWERS

- Include plants that tolerate cooler temperatures in spring
- Osteospermum and Nemesia
- **Forced branches** of Forsythia and other twigs provide vertical accent
 - Containers include Pansies, Stock, Variegated Vinca Vine
- **Growing Spring Flowering Bulbs in Containers**
 - Those in cold Northern or mild Southern climates need to add forced bulbs in spring
 - **Forcing Spring Flowering Bulbs**
- Bulbs with colorful and edible Mustard Greens, Lettuce and Kale
- **Spring flowering trees grown in containers**
 - Other pots in the grouping filled with Pansies, and Greens
- Two pots of spring flowers
 - Left: Osteospermum, Nemesia and Petunia
 - Right: red and yellow Nemesia and orange Osteospermum
- Dusty Miller, Dianthus, Sweet Alyssum and Pansies
- Increase impact with grouping of various size pots of spring flowers

SUMMER

- Containers filled with edible and ornamental plants
 - Climbing Malabar Spinach, Elephant Ears, Pineapple Lily, Soiree® Flamenco Vinca, Coleus, Baby Tut Papyrus and more...

HOUSEPLANTS MOVE OUTDOORS

- Dracaenas, False Aralia, Variegated Rubber Plant, Asparagus Fern, Coleus, Hakone Grass, Sedge, Elephant Ears
- Snake Plant, Dracaenas in pots on deck

- *Ficus elastica* 'Ruby'
- Prayer Plant and Watermelon Peperomia
- Variegated Dracaenas with Gartenmeister or Thalia Fuchsia and Lobelia

HERBS, VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS

- Fountain converted to herb garden
- Colander of Parsley
- Self-watering railing planter with Thyme, Variegated Sage, Purple Ruffle Basil, Italian Parsley and Golden Thyme
- Left: wall mounted containers with various herbs and vegetables
- Right: stacked planter with veggies and herbs
- Left: Imperial Star Artichoke, Verbena and Euphorbia
- Right: Lacinato Kale and Ornamental Cabbage
- **Chicago Botanic Garden** - Ornamental Kale, Red Cabbage, Peter III Blue Aster and Emerald Falls Dichondra
- Portable potluck container of Greens, Pansies and Chives
- Demeter elevated garden of Pansies, yellow Calendulas, Alaska Nasturtium and Greens
- Brussels Sprouts as vertical accent, Flat Leaf Parsley, Marigolds, Purple Basil
- Gartenmeister & Santa Claus Fuchsia, Swiss Chard and Lettuce
- Left: Purple Basil, Better Bush Tomato and Alaska Nasturtium
- Right: Indeterminate Tomato, Strawberry and Golden Moneywort
- Redbor Kale, Impatiens, Dusty Miller and Curly Rush
- Left: Pole Beans in grow pots
- Right: Sundipper Tomato, Turmeric and Vermillionaire Cuphea
- Window box shaped containers on ground along sidewalk - filled with various vegetables and herbs

Utility-friendly Tree Planting Tips from We Energies

Trees growing too close to power lines can cause sparks, fires, power outages and shock hazards. To avoid these problems, plant trees that won't interfere with power lines when fully grown. Small ornamental trees or shrubs that will not exceed 15 feet in height such as serviceberry, dogwood and low-growing evergreens are best to plant around power lines. Trees such as maple, basswood, burr oak, white pine or spruce grow more than 40 feet high and should be planted more than 50 feet from any overhead power lines.

And don't forget to call 811 at least three days before planting to check the location of underground services.

Learn more utility-friendly planting tips at we-energies.com.



GROWING FRUIT IN CONTAINERS

- **Growing Fruit in Small Spaces**
- **Growing Citrus in Containers**
- Bushel and Berry® compact fruit
 - Baby Cakes® Blackberry
 - Sapphire Cascade Blueberry
- **Apples**
 - Most need 2 varieties for pollination and fruit formation
 - Urban Apples, North Pole, Scarlet and Golden Sentinel
 - 2-3' wide and 8-10' tall
- Pollinator-friendly plants
 - Left: Vermillionaire Cuphea (hummingbird favorite) and Licorice Vine (host plant)
 - Right: Zinnia with Cuphea (single flowers even better)
 - Left: Black & Blue Salvia
 - Right: Lantana, Cuphea and Coleus

WATER GARDENS

- Pots of Papyrus in containers sunk into the ground
- Pot on left: Dwarf Water Lily, Thalia, Acorus, Bloody Dock (*Rumex*)
- Pot on right: Elephant Ears
- Reduce watering frequency - Canna and Elephant Ears placed in pot of water
 - **How to Plant Cannas in Water**
- Shallow planters with glass orbs and water plants

SUCCULENTS

- Blue containers complement subtle colors of the succulent plants
- Mix of succulents
- Elevate for greater visual impact
 - Left: stacked pots
 - Right: pot set on chair in garden

- Tipped container leaning into trough filled with Echeverias and stone
- Repurposed container with Hens & Chicks, Sedums, shells and glass orbs
- **Green Roof Bird Feeder**
- **Crevice Garden**

FAIRY GARDENS

- Left: Plumosa Fern, Mosses, Needlepoint Ivy and fun decorations
- Right: Broken pot provides multiple levels - Maidenhair Fern and Angelina Sedum
- Needlepoint Ivy, Irish Moss, Ajuga and Fairy Garden décor

DIVERSITY

- Containers allow you to create a diverse garden by providing each plant with soil and moisture it needs

SELECTING THE CONTAINER

- Drainage holes or self-watering pot with weep hole
- Size is large enough to accommodate the plants
- Weather proof if left outdoors year round
- Select plants that complement the pot
 - Tradescantia, Fountain Grass, Oxalis and Moss in head planters
 - Dragon Wing Begonia and Licorice Vine in terracotta pot
 - Angel Wings Senecio in bucket

A FEW VERTICAL ACCENTS (THRILLERS)

- Left: Traditional Spike with Zinnias, Calibrachoa, Petunia and Variegated Plectranthus Vine
- Right: Spike with purple Verbena, Mezoo, yellow Gazania and Diamond Frost Euphorbia
- Purple Phormium, Diamond Frost Euphorbia and Silver Falls Dichondra
- Left: pink Cordyline with pink Begonia and Torenia

Landscaping Around We Energies Utilities

Plants and other landscaping features can interfere with utility equipment and cause safety risks. Remember to:

Maintain equipment visibility: Use techniques that camouflage rather than hide utility equipment. Hearty grasses and/or flowers are preferred. They provide aesthetic improvements and grow back quickly should equipment access be necessary.

Ensure easy access: When fencing is used, choose a split-rail type, which can be easily dismantled when equipment access is needed. Be sure fences are located more than 3 feet from transformer sides and no permanent fence post is located in front of transformer door.

Keep proper clearance: When woody shrubs or bushes are used, place them more than 3 feet from transformer sides and more than 10 feet from its door. Keep future growth in mind for the size of shrubs or bushes.

Learn more utility-friendly planting tips at we-energies.com.

- Right: Canna with Croton and Grass
- Fireworks Fountain Grass with Strawflowers
- Left: pink Guara with pink trailing Verbena and purple Calibrachoa
- Right: dwarf Cleome with Petunias and Scaevola
- Left: white Guara with Coleus and Petunia
- Right: pink dwarf Cleome with purple Calibrachoa
- Pennisetum 'Bunny Tails', Cabaret Apricot Calibrachoa, Prairie Sun Rudbeckia and Bull's Blood Beet
- Snake Plant with Petunia in larger pot
- Sago Palm / Cycad (*Cycas revoluta*) with Impatiens
- Sago Palm, purple Phormium, Sweet Potato Vine, Sumac and Virginia Creeper
- Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), Yellow Portulaca and Silver Falls Dichondra
- Brugmansia with Ivy in weatherproof pot
- Brugmansia with chartreuse and purple Sweet Potato Vine
- Left: painted dowel rods with Bromeliads, Dracaena and Begonia
- Right: bamboo stakes with Fountain Grass, Begonia and Sweet Potato Vine
- Morning Glory on obelisk
- Solar Tower Sweet Potato Vine, Morning Glory and Eucalyptus
- Sweet Potato Vines, Dusty Miller, Dahlia, Salvia and Angelonia
- Rex Begonia Vine (*Cissus discolor*)
- Mexican Flame Vine, Rudbeckia, Petunia, Lantana and Sweet Potato Vine
- Left: Vine covered obelisk, Black Pearl Pepper, Zinnia, Sundiascia® Towers of Flowers
- Right: colorful twigs, Electric Lime Coleus, Rex Begonia, *Tradescantia pallida* and Impatiens
- Pots displayed at various levels - Coleus, Cuphea, Sweet Potato Vine and Petunia

- Bossa Nova® Red Begonia, Firecracker Fuchsia, Whopper Red Bronze Begonia
- Left: Vertical Accent on patio - Banana plant with Ferns and Petunia
- Right: Vertical Accent in garden - Banana
- Purple Sweet Potato Vine, Ferns
- Pots at edge of garden, along path - Canna, Elephant Ears and Coleus

COLOR ECHOING & TEXTURE

- Cordyline (Ti plant) with Coleus, Wire Vine, Impatiens and Petunia
- Impatiens, Coleus, Sedges and Ornamental Peppers echo surroundings
- Cotyledon succulent color echoing container
- Rex Begonia and Alternanthera
- Left: Fern and Begonia
- Right: Curly Rush and Celosia
- Alternanthera, Carex, variegated Geranium and variegated Euonymus
- Chamaecyparis evergreen

CONTAINERS WITH A PURPOSE

- Create a Welcoming Space
 - Begonia, Nasturtium, Impatiens and Vinca Vine
 - Assorted containers at front door
 - Metal raised beds with Junipers, Coleus and Elephant Ears
 - Left: Black pots echo door color - *Tradescantia pallida*, Impatiens, Coleus and twigs
 - Right: Cannas, Petunias, Salvia and Alyssum
- Dress Up a Structure
 - Variegated Ficus, Variegated Peperomia, Canna, Croton, Petunia and Golden Moneywort
 - Butchart Gardens - Wisteria on post, Fuchsia in a pot, Begonia hanging basket...



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook 2nd Edition* released 2022, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and Instant Video, including the latest *Food Gardening for Everyone* DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

- Add Color to Deck, Patio or Balcony
 - Coleus and Elephant Ears
 - Elephant Ears, Dusty Miller, Persian Shield (*Strobilanthes*)
 - Square metal pot - Voodoo Lily (*Amorphophallus konjac*) with Variegated Agave
 - Left: assortment of small pots on plant shelf
 - Right: plant shelf filled with annuals in garden (secure the unit)
 - Window box of *Tradescantia pallida*, Impatiens, Ferns and Vinca Vine
 - Hanging Basket Left: Coleus, Begonia and Petunias
 - Hanging Basket Right: Coleus, Torenia, Variegated Tradescantia
 - Green Wall with felt planters - Begonias and *Tradescantia pallida*
 - Green wall with assorted herbs
- Screening
 - Hanging Baskets - *Mandevilla sanderi* and Grape Ivy
 - Metal raised beds with Juniper, Elephant Ears, Coleus and Begonia (another view)
 - Hanging Baskets and pots of houseplants - Imperial Red Philodendron, Gryphon Begonia, Dracaena, Iresine and Asparagus Fern are included in plant display
 - *Thunbergia mysorensis* hanging down covered porch
 - Banana, Canna, Coleus, Phormium, Lantana Sweet Potato Vine, Aloe
- Redirect Foot Traffic
 - Blue Lyme Grass (aggressive), Ornamental Cabbage, Tradescantia, Golden Moneywort and Sweet Potato Vine

REPURPOSED ITEMS BECOME PLANTERS

- Bathtub filled with assorted vegetables and herbs, night stands with pots
- Birdbath with Golden Moneywort, Impatiens and orb
- Left: bird cage with pot of Impatiens
- Right: feeder filled with Gold Dust Mercardonia
- Left: grill filled with various herbs
- Right: colander filled with pink Polka Dot Plant (*Hypoestes*) and pink Gomphrena
- Food cans filled with Primrose
- Left: pots and pans on stake with variegated Rubber Trees, Kalanchoe...
- Right: painted trash can with Phormium, Heuchera, Calibrachoa and Verbena
- Left: fountain filled with Pansies and variegated Needlepoint Ivy
- Right: fountain filled with Bromeliads and Spanish Moss
- Fire pit filled with Bidens
- Duct elbow with Succulents
- Tool box with assorted Succulents
- Child's sand bucket with Mexican Feather Grass (*Nassella*) and Petunia
- Tackle filled with assorted Succulents

FALL

- Add Pumpkins and fall décor to container displays
- Pot of Mums and a few Pumpkins at entrance
- Assorted fall containers at Pasquesi Home and Gardens
- Left: scare crows with pot of Petunias, Celosia and Fountain Grass
- Right: Ornamental Peppers, Rudbeckia and Mums (both displayed at Ebert's Greenhouse Village)
- Left: Swiss Chard, Rudbeckia and Golden Moneywort
- Right: Swiss Chard, Kales, Wire Vine and Sedge

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- Left and Right: MN Landscape Arboretum - various dried materials from landscape
- Great Courses Container Course - assorted dried materials
- Japanese Maple, Coleus, Lantana, Vinca Vine
- Left: Jade Princess Pennisetum, Rudbeckia, Kale in pot with Ornamental Peppers, Switchgrass and Cuphea
- Right: Broom Corn and Pennisetum vertical accent, Ornamental Cabbage, small Pumpkins
- Pumpkin pot with Ornamental Pepper
- Pumpkin pot with Aster
- Croton with Mum in brown pot
- Pots of Pansies mounted on stairway railing
- Pots of Pansies on steps
- Dahlias in pot set in garden (see webinar Growing Summer Bulbs in Containers)
- Dwarf and miniature Evergreens in trough
- Dwarf and miniature Evergreens in trough
- Dwarf Arborvitae with Ornamental Peppers and Lobelia
- Dwarf Golden Arborvitae with variegated Panda Grass (*Pogonatherum paniceum*)
- Collection of dwarf Conifers in container - consider care when selecting pots and plants

DON'T HARM THE TREES

- Pots of Hosta set beneath shade tree - Inniswood Metro Gardens
- Sink pot - then place pot of annuals in that container in groundcover under trees

WINTER

- Assorted hanging baskets and pots
- Left: cut tree decorated on porch
- Right: metal containers of greens, Red Twig Dogwood stems and Curly Willow stems
- Left: painted Pine cones, faux berries, Spruce tips and Pine greens
- Right: flocked twigs, Birch branches, blue faux berries, ornaments and greens
- Pots of greens, Pine cones, berries and Birch branch

- Twigs, faux red berries (*Illex verticillata* berried branches would also work), Boxwood, Spruce, Arborvitae and Pine greens
- Green and Golden Juniper, Chamaecyparis, Pine with berry covered wreath of Grape Vines
- Ornamental Grasses added to pot on right
- Left: Gnome of Greens
- Right: Birch branch, berries, ornaments and greenery
- Left: Greens and outdoor ornaments
- Right: candy cane painted branches, baubles and greens
- Left: Grape vine arch, cones and ornaments in container of greens
- Right: white painted twigs, Red Twig Dogwood, ornaments and greens
- Left: *Gomphocarpus physocarpus* (Balloon Plant) seed pods painted gold, dried Hydrangea flowers and greens
- Right: dried Hydrangea flowers, cones and twigs
- Left: unpainted Balloon Plant seed pods, Grasses, Red Twig Dogwood, berries and greens
- Right: container of colorful twigs

HAVE SOME FUN!

- Assorted footwear planted at Wisconsin State Fair

UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

April Activity - A Container of Garden Greens

May Activity - Creating a Container from Repurposed Items

May 1st Webinar - Ornamental Fruits and Vegetables

June Activity - Grow Your Own Sunflower in a Recycled Container or the Garden

June 5th Webinar - Underappreciated Pollinators



UPCOMING WEBINARS & APPEARANCES

Webinar April 11th

7 Steps to Managing Water Where it Falls in Your Yard

April 18th

Be a Waterwise Gardener

SC Johnson's Golden Rondelle Theater

April 20th

Why & How of Pruning Hydrangeas and Other Shrubs

Pasquesi Home and Gardens

April 27th

Creating an Eco-friendly, Low Maintenance Landscape

Ridges & Rivers Book Festival

April 28th

Flowering Trees and Shrubs for Your Garden

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

Webinar May 1st

Ornamental Fruits and Vegetables

May 4th

Pet-friendly Container Gardening

Small Space Vegetable Gardening

Garden U 2024

Webinar May 9th

How to Plan Your Rain Garden

May 11th 12th, 18th

Ask the Plant Doctor

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

June 1st

Selecting, Planting, Pruning and Caring for Hydrangeas

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

Webinar June 5th

Underappreciated Pollinators

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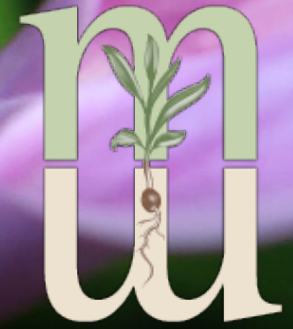
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