

INDOOR CONTAINER GARDEN DESIGN & DISPLAY



melindamyers.com

Summit[®]
...responsible solutions.

Transfer ideas and concepts from your outdoor containers to those growing indoors. Then include some interior design concepts to your houseplant placements and displays.

Use Color and Texture to Your Advantage

- Contrasting forms and colors create focal points and add drama
- Those that blend with or echo the colors in the surroundings tie them more closely to the overall design

Child and Pet Safety

Some of the plants listed here are toxic to people and/or pets. Always check plant toxicity when selecting plants for homes with children and pets. *Use botanical names when researching toxicity of plants. Common names vary on websites and with gardeners. Using the botanical name will ensure you obtain information about the correct plant.*

Here are a few resources you may find useful:

For Pets

- [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals](#)
- [Important tips from Penn Vet to Keep Pets Safe During the Holidays](#)
- [Pet Friendly Indoor Gardening](#)
- [Pet Safe Indoor Gardening](#)

For People

- [University of California Safe and Poisonous Garden Plants](#)
- [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#)
- *Common Plants, What's Poisonous and What's Not*
- University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics
- 800-815-8855
- *Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants*, Third Edition
- New York Botanical Gardens, Lewis S. Nelson MD & Michael J. Balick PhD

For Pets & People

- [North Carolina State University Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#)

Summit Responsible Solutions

Protecting you, and the environment we live in.

Summit Mosquito Dunks® and Mosquito Bits® are America's favorite biological mosquito controls because they kill mosquitoes before they become biting, disease-spreading adults. The active ingredient is *Bti* (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), a bacterium that's deadly to mosquito larvae but harmless to other living things.

Summit Mosquito Bits® can also be used to control fungus gnats on indoor plants.

Summit® Year-Round® Spray Oil is an organic, environmentally responsible way to kill insect pests on even the most sensitive plants. Summit® Year-Round® Spray Oil has no bad odor, and it can be used on garden plants and fruit trees right up to the day of harvest. Use it to kill insects on indoor and outdoor plants.

Learn More

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COMBINATIONS SHOWN

SUCCULENT COMBINATIONS

Bright to high light, well-drained potting mix, most have a smaller root system compared to the above ground growth and are relatively slow growing. This means it is easier to create long term container combinations.

- *Kalanchoe luciae* 'Fantastic' & Mexican Sedum or other trailer
- Pencil Cactus (*Euphorbia tirucalli*) & Echeveria
- Assorted Succulents
 - Haworthia
 - Echeverias
 - Aloe

TROPICAL COMBINATIONS

Most tropical and sub-tropical plants prefer moderate light and moist, well-drained soil

- *Anthurium clarinervium* (epiphyte) & *Tradescantia spathacea* 'Tricolor' (*Rhoeo discolor* 'Tricolor')
- Anthurium & Croton (Codiaeum)
Anthurium tolerate moderate to bright light, *Croton* prefer bright light for the best color
- Dracaena 'Lemon Surprise' & *Croton*
Dracaena, *Spider Plant*, *Cordyline*, *Prayer Plant* and *Palms* often develop **brown tips** due to fluoride and chlorine in the water.
- Begonia 'Benigo Pink' & Wire Vine (*Muehlenbeckia*)
Bright light and moderately moist soil, spring through fall and a bit drier in winter
- Gryphon Begonia & Tradescantia zebrina
Gryphon is more tolerant of drier soil than *Rex Begonias*. *Trailing Tradescantias* benefit from regular pruning.

SELECT PLANTS THAT REQUIRE THE SAME GROWING CONDITIONS

- Assorted Succulents: *Haworthia*, *Echeverias*, *Aloe*
- Papyrus, *Dracaena*, *Fern*, *Peperomia*, *Ti Plant*
Plants prefer moist, well-drained soil, moderate to bright indirect light

MANAGING SEASONAL BLOOM

- Red Bromeliad (*Guzmania*) & English Ivy
- Assorted Succulents & Flowering *Kalanchoe*
Use flowering plants with attractive foliage that can remain in the container garden. Or make changing out seasonal flowering plants easy and minimize root disturbance. Bury empty pot in planter, leave flowering pot in its own container, set it in the sunken pot and change out as needed.

LOTS OF PLANTS IN A SMALL CONTAINER

- Prayer Plant, Kalanchoe, *Elephant Ears*, *Variegated Ficus*
Enjoy and repot into individual containers or create a new combination with fewer specimens in an appropriate size container.

THRILLER, FILLER & SPILLER DESIGN

- *Cordyline* (thriller), Coleus & Begonia (filler) & Oxalis (spiller)
- Dracaena 'Lemon Lime' & Pothos
- Snake Plant & Heartleaf Philodendron
- Rubber Tree (*Ficus elastica* 'Tineke'), Spider Plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*) & Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus densiflorus*)
- *Ficus elastica* Chroma Belize
- Thriller, Filler & Spiller planted in individual pots
 - Rubber Tree, Spider Plant, *Caladium**Create a garden of individual plants, which allows you to provide individual care while enjoying attractive combinations.*



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*, 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, 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

A FEW POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS

- New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*), Aloe & Kalanchoe and more

Bright to high light, water thoroughly when top few inches of soil are dry

THRILLERS WITH POSSIBLE COMPANION PLANTS

- Banana (*Musa*) shown with Marguerite Sweet Potato Vine and Sweet Alyssum
 - Combine with Neon Pothos and Copper Leaf (*Acalypha* 'Bronze Bath')

Moderate to bright, indirect light, moist, well-drained soil. Water thoroughly when top inch of soil is dry. Copper Leaf can drop leaves in droughty conditions.

- Colocasia shown with Caladium
 - Combine with Red and Green Arrowhead Vine (*Syngonium podophyllum*)

Low to bright light, benefits from high humidity, water thoroughly when top inch of soil is dry

- Palms
 - Combine with Heartleaf Philodendron (*Philodendron hederaceum*) & Red Edge Chinese Evergreen (*Aglaonema*)*Low, moderate to bright indirect light, water thoroughly when top inch of soil is dry*
- Fiddle Leaf Fig (*Ficus lyrata*) in large planter with Dracaena, Rubber Plant & Ivy
 - Combine with *Tradescantia spathacea* 'Tricolor' (*Rhoeo discolor* 'Tricolor') & English Ivy*Bright light, moist, well-drained soil*
- Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*) shown with Peace Lily, Dracaenas and Pothos
- Variegated Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina* 'Variegata')
 - Combine with Spider Plant & Foxtail Fern (*Asparagus densiflorus* 'Meyersii')

Leaf drop on Weeping Fig occurs with changes in location and the growing conditions. Foxtail Fern drops leaves when growing in too much or too little light

- Dragon Tree (*Dracaena marginata*)
 - Combine with Bromeliad and/or *Tradescantia* 'Pistachio White'

Bright light, water thoroughly when top inch of soil is dry. Regularly prune Tradescantia for more compact growth.

- *Dracaena warneckii* 'White Jewel'
 - Red Anthurium & Angel/Wire Vine (*Muehlenbeckia*)

Bright light, water thoroughly when top inch of soil is dry.

- False Aralia (*Plerandra elegantissima*)
 - Combine with Begonia & Purple Inch Plant (*Tradescantia*)

False Aralia does best with high humidity and moist soil. Tradescantia is pretty adaptable and benefits from regular trimming.

- Japanese Laurel (*Acuba japonica*)
 - Combine with Fatsia japonica & Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus densiflorus*)

Moderate light, water thoroughly when top inch of soil is dry

- Dieffenbachia
 - Combine with Chloe Begonia & Artillery Plant (*Pilea microphylla*)

Bright, indirect light, providing even light reduces leaf loss on Dieffenbachia, water thoroughly when top inch of soil is dry

- Crotons (*Codiaeum*), *Codiaeum variegatum* 'Franklin Roosevelt' shown
 - Combine with Lipstick Plant (*Aeschynanthus*) & Chinese Evergreen (*Aglaonema*)

Bright light, water when top inch of soil is dry, Crotons are less colorful in low light situations

UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.

February 10th - 12th

PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape EXPO
[More Information](#)

February 15th Webinar

[10 Tips for Growing Better Dahlias](#)

February 17th - 19th

NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show
[More Information](#)

February 22nd Webinar

[Grow Beautiful Water Gardens Free of Invasive Plants](#)

- **Variegated Shell Ginger** (*Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegata')
 - Combine with **Purple Passion Vine** (*Gynura aurantiaca*)
Bright, indirect light, water as soil begins to dry
- **Cordyline** 'Lemon Lime'
 - Combine with **Creeping Fig** (*Ficus pumila*) & **ColorBlaze Wicked Witch Coleus**
Moderate to bright light, water when the top inch of soil is dry
- Raven **ZZ Plant** (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia* 'Raven')
 - Combine with **Cuban Oregano** (*Plectranthus 'Cerveza Lime'*) & **Kalanchoe**
Moderate to bright indirect light and well-drained soil
- **Snake Plant** (*Dracaena trifasciata*) formerly *Sansevieria*
 - Combine with **Hoya** & **Euphorbia** 'Pink Cadillac'
Bright to high light and well-drained soil - although Snake Plant tolerates low light
- **Bird of Paradise** (*Strelitzia reginae*)
 - Combine with **Sago Palm** (*Cycas revoluta*) & **Turtle Vine** (*Callisia repens*)
Bird of Paradise flower best when pot bound and most often fail to bloom due to insufficient light. Provide high light and well-drained soil, regularly trim Turtle Vine for more compact growth
- **Peace Lily** (*Spathiphyllum*)
 - Combine with **Ribbon Plant** (*Homalocladium*)
Bright, indirect light, moist, well-drained soil
 - Or **Boston Fern** & **Rex Begonia Vine** (*Cissus discolor*)

- **Zebra Plant** (*Aphelandra squarrosa*)
 - Combine with *Pilea glauca* 'Silver Sparkles' & **Austral Gem Fern** (*Asplenium x 'Austral Gem'*)
Moist, well-drained soil with bright, indirect light, pinch Pilea for more compact growth, Austral Gem Fern is less fussy and does not shed like Boston Fern

A FEW MORE TO CONSIDER

- **Nerve Plant** (*Fittonia*)
High humidity, moist, well-drained soil and indirect light, short-lived plant, so regularly root cuttings and start new plants
- **Ripple Peperomia** (*Peperomia caperata*)
Bright, indirect light, water thoroughly when top inch of soil is dry. Insufficient light will slow, even stop, growth.
- Moon Valley Pilea (*Pilea mollis* 'Moon Valley')
Similar care as African Violet, high humidity, moist, well-drained soil, bright, indirect light
- Rattlesnake Plant (*Calathea leuconeura*)
Low to moderate indirect light, moist, well-drained soil, high humidity, brown leaf tips from drought or fluoride and/or chlorine
- **Prayer Plant** (*Maranta leuconeura*)
Low to moderate indirect light, moist, well-drained soil, high humidity, brown leaf tips from drought or fluoride and/or chlorine in the water
- Pink Quill (*Tillandsia cyanea*)
Bromeliads, including Tillandsias are epiphytes that grow in the tree canopies in nature. Pink Quill is usually grown in a well-drained potting mix and watered thoroughly when top inch or so of potting mix is dry. They prefer bright, indirect light and are long blooming and easy care. Once parent plant dies new sprouts emerge and can be moved to their own container.

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- **Streptocarpella**

Requires care similar to African Violet. Warm, draft-free location, bright light and moist organic potting mix, water when top inch of soil is beginning to dry, avoid cold water on the leaves as that can cause damage

- **Crocodile Fern** (*Microsorium musifolium* 'Crocodyllus')

Bright, indirect light, high humidity, moist, well-drained soil and temperatures over 50°F (10°C)

- Moon Valley Pilea (*Pilea mollis* 'Moon Valley')

Similar care as African Violet, high humidity, moist, well-drained soil, bright, indirect light

- **Celebes Pepper** (*Piper crocatum*)

Slow growing, East or West facing window, water when top inch of soil is dry, leaf drop occurs when temperatures are below 59°F (15°C)

- **Geo Plant** (*Geogenanthus ciliates*)

Similar care as Peace Lily, bright, indirect light and moist soil

CREATE A GREEN OASIS

USE PLANTS AS ROOM DECOR

- Combine with art
- Adjustable basket and rack system
- Window to the garden
- Port hole window and security for rare plants
- Dress up foyer
- Living valence
- Furniture grade plant stands
 - **Bamboo LED Light Stand**
- Multifunctional plant stands and shelving
 - **Oslo 2-Tier LED Grow Light Garden**
 - **Mobile LED Grow Light Cart**

VERTICAL GARDENS, GREEN WALLS, DIVIDERS & HANGING PLANTS

- Wooly Pockets
- DIY green wall with succulents and faux moss
- Driftwood and succulents on narrow panel
- Commercial wall planter

- DIY wall planter made from picture frame
- Succulent wreaths and hanging baskets
- Wall-mounted framed snake plants
- **Mini Magnetic Galvanized Planter Pockets**
- Soup spoons with succulents
- Rebar frame with potted succulents
- Multiple horizontal bamboo planters for wall or divider
- **Air plants** (*Tillandsias*) mounted on tree slab
- Air plants hanging on decorative metal work
- Air plants in mini blown glass hanging terrariums
- Air plant mounted on and hanging from shell
- Trailing succulent planted in and growing from shell planter
- Macrame hangers - yes they are back
- **Hanging Wooden Plant Shelf**
- **Kira Grow Light Hanging Planter**
- **Hanging Birdcage Planter Set**
- Succulent hanging basket
- Woven pockets for hanging plants
- Anthurium in old purse
- Hanging fabric pot with lights
- Fish - barrel cactus body, *Hoya kerrii* fins, sempervivum mouth
- Fish topiary of sempervivums

CONTAINERS AND PLANT STANDS

- Self-watering containers to reduce maintenance and increase success
- **Ava self-watering pot**
- Chest of succulents
- Faux log planters with succulents
- Tea pot turned succulent planter
- Old brass instruments turned planter
- Metal tub in wire baskets with shells filled with succulents
- Colander turned planter
- Fairy gardens - love or hate them
- Broken pot turned planter
- Fern in glass container showing soil and stone
- Dish garden of succulents dressed up with shells

- Succulent container set on complementary placemat for added impact
- Tartu Elevated Square Planters
- Crisscross Cascading Plant Stand
- 4-Tier Foldable Plant Stand

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

- Agrobrite Floor Plant Lamp
- Agrobrite Desktop LED Plant Lamp

HOLIDAYS

- Dress up plantings with holiday plants and decorations
- Use small potted plants that can be set in and removed from container gardens
- Bromeliad, poinsettias and nerve plant
- Philodendron, painted twigs and ornaments
- Snake plant with painted twigs and faux berries
- Spike moss with faux cardinal
- English ivy topiary

TERRARIUMS

- Closed terrariums are somewhat self-sufficient
- Smaller scale plants for better and longer fit
- Select moisture and humidity loving plants
 - Baby's Tears (*Soleirolia*) shown
- DIY terrariums
 - Convert vase, bell jar or other item into terrarium
- Wardian case
- Open terrariums
 - Monitor soil moisture
 - Better for plants that do not tolerate high humidity and moisture of closed terrariums, like cacti and succulents
 - Copper and Glass Terrariums

DISH GARDENS ARE GOOD OPTION FOR CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

- Heart-Shaped Concrete Tabletop Planter with succulents
- Copper Plant Tray with succulents
- Veradek GEO Series Planter Boxes
- Upcycled serving tray of succulents





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Melinda's Garden Moment AUDIO TIPS

Melinda's Garden Moment VIDEO TIPS

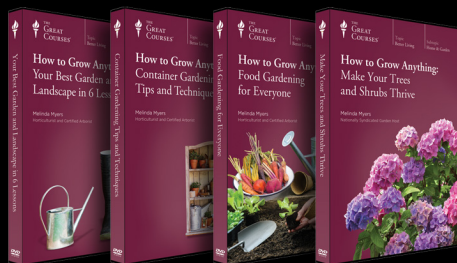
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLISTS & MORE

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