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CREATIVE CONTAINER GARDENING



USES IN THE LANDSCAPE

- Add color and interest where no planting space is available
- Focal point, vertical accents in landscape or planting bed
- Soften structure
- Screening
- Create outdoor living spaces - large and small
- Problem solving
- Easier access to plants
 - Easier access for planting, maintenance and harvesting
 - Bring the garden to your back door and party
- Attract pollinators
- Small scale water, bog or desert garden
 - Water garden planting mix (less organic matter for water gardens), top with stones
 - Bog garden (80% coarse peat, 20% sharp sand)
 - Succulents (cacti and succulent mix or 1:1 potting mix and perlite or...)
- Save the trees

Planters Shown in Order

- Front steps filled with planters
- Coleus on shelves next to front door
- Alternanthera and Impatiens
- Pots of pansies on railing
- By garage
 - Left - Cordyline, Fountain Grass, Silver Falls Dichondra, Rieger & Rex Begonias
 - Right - Cordyline, Fiber Optic Grass, Coleus, Oxalis
- Hostas in blue pots mark entrance to stairs
- Patio filled with tropicals for a paradise retreat
- Container of Impatiens and Coleus mimic plants in surrounding bed, providing unity
- Garage roof garden
 - Always check structural strength to hold weight of container, moist soil and mature plants
- Rooftop garden - willows in Smart Pots form living dome
- Palm, Nicotiana, Diamond Frost Euphorbia and Coleus provides vertical interest in garden bed
- Fountain with Bromeliads and Spanish Moss on left
 - 3-tier planter with AquaSav Coco Mat filled with Petunias
- Thalia or Gartenmeister Fuchsia and Variegated Sedge
 - 3-tier planter filled with variegated sedge
- Pots on multiple height posts with Calibrachoa and Geranium

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

When you visit Ebert's Greenhouse Village for the first time, you'll be charmed by our rustic ambiance and the beautiful surrounding countryside in Ixonia, Wisconsin. You'll meet our friendly and knowledgeable staff who share your passion for gardening and the rewarding, enjoyable life experience it provides!

Our selection of annual flowers and gorgeous hanging basket and container combinations are second to none – they are planted and cared for with your success and lasting enjoyment in mind. Our extensive collection of perennials, trees, shrubs and roses is one of the finest in Wisconsin, and our culinary herbs and vegetables can be planted with confidence! As our grounds continue to evolve, you'll see additions that will enhance your shopping experience with us. In our Gift Shoppe, we continue to build a delightful selection of indoor and outdoor home and landscape accents to inspire you to assemble an environment you will love spending time in all season long!

At Ebert's Greenhouse Village, "We Grow HAPPINESS!!"

Learn More



- Three pots elevated in garden - Cordyline, Ornamental Cabbage, Bidens, Helenium
- Container inside container on table filled with Cordyline, Impatiens and Begonias
- Tropicals - Colocasia, Brugmansia, Shrimp Plant, Calathea...
- End of driveway - Hakone Grass, Strobilanthes, Purple Sweet Potato Vine
- High rise planter - Fountain Grass, Canna, Tropical Asclepias
- On light pillar - Coleus, Dragon Wing Begonias, Sweet Potato Vine
- Intense screen of tropicals - Bananas, Alocasia, Colocasia, Caladiums &...
- Evergreens for year-round screening - pots of Coleus and Begonias for seasonal interest
- Hanging basket and planter screen of Geraniums and Ivy
- Artistic green screening with baskets of Verbena, Golden Moneywort, Silver Falls Dichondra
- Rebar wall and cross pieces for holding pots - Geraniums
- Arbor for screening with assorted hanging baskets and containers
- Edible screen - hanging basket of Kale, Pansies, Ornamental Pepper and Parsley
- Coral Bells in hanging baskets displayed at multiple levels
- Deck railing - planter of Petunias and artwork provide screening
- Solve a problem - Hydrangeas uniquely displayed
- Planter with trellis of Charisma Bower Vine, Thalia Fuchsia, Torenia, Sweet Potato Vine
- Planter at corner of bed - Lyme Grass, Purple Tradescantia, Ornamental Cabbage, Sweet Potato Vine
- Fill corner void - *Nicotiana sylvestris*, shorter Nicotiana, Licorice Plant, Petunias
- Gutter planters with Wax Begonias, Impatiens, Variegated Vinca
- Tillandsia mounted on slab of wood
- Picture frame of assorted succulents
- Picture frame converted to planter with succulents
- Green wall - Sage, Lemon Thyme, Creeping Thyme, Portulaca
- Living Wall system - filled with assorted annuals - movable containers with irrigation
- Shoe caddy with assorted herbs - watering concern with small pockets of soil
- Woolly Pockets on left - felt planters in various colors
 - Prefab plastic wall planter with edible greens
- Longaberger baskets filled with Lobelia on wrought iron fence
- Wall of planters on brick wall
- Bring the garden to you - Tomatoes in pots on walkways between house and garage
- Grilling herbs
 - In pots, old grill
- Bring the garden to the table
 - Malabar Spinach wraps
 - Pots of Basil, Chives, and Tricolor Sage



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

- Plant-a-Bar with Lemon Grass, Nasturtium, Lemon Scented Geraniums, Stevia...
- Salad Bar - mix of greens complete with Funky Chickens
- Accessible Planters
 - Demeter planter with greens, Calendula, and Pansies
 - Tomatoes in pots by ramp
 - Straw bale garden in hardware cloth and wood container on wheels
 - Trug - container on legs - Cabbage, Onion, Eggplant...

THE PLANTS

YOU'LL FIND MORE INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL PLANTS ON MY WEBSITE

- Require the same growing conditions - I know you know, but we all need to be reminded
- Consider texture, color and form
- Try something new - great way to test new plants before adding to the garden

A FEW EDIBLE PLANTS

ORNAMENTALS AND VEGETABLES

- Red Sails and Freckles Lettuce with Pansies
- Lettuce with Night Sky Petunia
- Plain pot with Chives, Lettuce and Pansies
- Decorative pot with Lettuce, Mustard Greens, and Grass
- Ornamental and edible Mustard, Celosia, Jade Princess Millet
- Lizzano Tomato in hanging basket
- Tomato with Basil, Cabbage, Zinnia in wash tub
- Patio Choice Yellow Cherry Tomato
- Indeterminate Tomato in container with trellis
- Orange Robin Tomato in hanging basket
- For fun - Eggs 'n' Chips, Ketchup 'n' Fries
- Potted Cucumber trained on tee pee support of branches
- Cucumber in hanging basket
- French Mascotte Bush Beans in wash tub
- Patio Pride Edible Potted Pea
- Imperial Star Artichoke with Trailing Verbena
- Big red container with Tomato, Nasturtium, Pennisetum, Sweet Potato Vine
- One plant per pot more productive
- Try a garden of containers - Cabbage, Petunia, Silver Falls Dichondra, Kale...



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seasonal prize!*

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- Strawberries
 - In Strawberry pot or hanging basket
 - Pot of everbearing Strawberries by bed of Dragon Wing Begonias
 - Delizz everbearing from seed to fruit in one season
- Raspberry Shortcake
- Baby Cakes Blackberry
- Various compact Blueberries from Bushel and Berry
- Columnar Apples - need 2 for pollination and fruit
 - Urban Apples, North Pole, Golden Sentinel
- Brown Turkey & Chicago Hardy Fig
- Pixie tabletop Grapes
- Citrus - Meyer Lemon, Mexican Lime...
- Edible flowers
 - Nasturtium leaves and flowers dress up salad
 - Baby Rose Nasturtium
 - Pot Marigold - Calendula

PLANTS TO ATTRACT BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

- Cardinal Vine with Hummingbird
- Cigar Plant (*Cuphea*) in old tea kettle
- Cigar Plant with Baby Tut Papyrus and Golden Moneywort
- Pentas and Strobilanthes
- Black and Bloom Salvia (also Black & Blue, Wendy's Wish)
- Rockin' Fuchsia Salvia with Lacinato Kale and Asian Garden Celosia
- Lantana - tree form
- Zahara Sunburst Zinnia
- Pansies and Alyssum
- Stocks and Pansies

FRAGRANCE

- Sweet Alyssum in basket
- Evening Scentsation Petunia
- Heliotrope and Parsley (Swallowtail caterpillar favorite)
- Creeping Rosemary in round glazed pot

SUCCULENTS

- Collection in pot set in garden
- Repurpose broken pots for added interest and color in succulent container
- Serving tray of succulents
- Sedum in repurposed hanging item
- Collection of Echeverias and Hens and Chicks in low round pot
- Stacked containers of succulents
- Potted succulents on window shelf
- Hanging basket of succulents
- Open terrariums of succulents under umbrella

TROPICALS

- Rubber Tree and Golden Moneywort
- Palm, Fern, Calathea, and Impatiens
- Bromeliads and more in wall garden
- *Aechmea* 'Yellow Berries', Rio Grande Portulaca, Bromeliads and Fan Palm

WATER & BOG GARDENS

- Canna, Curly Rush, Houttuynia, Colocasia, Pitcher Plant
- Pitcher Plants
- Pitcher Plant and Golden Moneywort in trough

PERENNIALS

- Foliage container
- Hosta and Hakonachloa Grass
- Heuchera and Impatiens

TREES & SHRUBS

- One zone hardier if left outdoors year-round
- Japanese Maple with Phormium, Impatiens, Variegated Plectranthus, Golden Moneywort, Pumpkins and decorative Squash
- Citrus - bring indoors in areas where it's not hardy
- Little Lamb and other Panicle Hydrangeas
- Tiger Eyes Sumac, Smokebush, Jewels of Opar, Wire Vine
- Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar, Scented Geraniums and Vinca
- Evergreen miniatures - Chamaecyparis and Spruce

BULBS

- Hardy
 - Daffodils and Grape Hyacinths
 - Tulips with Pansies and greens
 - Hardy Lilies
- Summer Bulbs - non hardy for many
 - Alocasia and Caladium
 - Canna, Croton, Coleus, Scaevola
 - Dahlia, Coleus, Bidens
 - Peacock Lily
 - Gloriosa Lily

FAIRY, GNOME & ZOMBIE GARDENS

A FEW BASIC TIPS & TRICKS

THE CONTAINER

- Pot with drainage holes
- Material influences soil moisture and temperature
- Bigger the pot, slower soil dries
- Weather proof container when growing outdoors year-round
- Double pot
 - For decorative containers without drainage holes
 - When overwintering containers in the garden
 - Plastic pot in cocoa mat pot

- Budget wise - hide grower pot with plants in decorative containers
- Moving the pot
 - Strong friends - until they catch on and disappear
 - Wheeled plant caddy
 - Pot Lifter
- False bottoms
 - Ups-a-Daisy, Better than Rocks
 - DIY - use landscape fabric over crushed cans, bottles...
- Upcycled containers

DESIGN TIPS

- Container is focus - kids wagon with Echeveria
- Plants are the focus - Fountain Grass, Begonia, Impatiens, Caladium, Ivy
- Complement each other - blue pots with Agave and other succulents
- Pot is invisible - container of dried landscape material - grasses, seedheads...

SELECT A QUALITY PLANTING MIX

- Retains moisture, yet drains
- Most contain a combination of some or all of these:
 - Peat moss
 - Compost
 - Coir
 - Rice hulls
 - Vermiculite
 - Perlite
 - Bark

FERTILIZATION

- Slow-release at planting
- Or soluble mixed and applied at watering

WATER

- Check daily and water thoroughly when top few inches start to dry
- Mulch
- Self-watering pots
- Papyrus, Canna, Elephant Ears in pot without drainage
- Plant Nannies and Aqua Cones
- Wool Pellets - sustainable and organic, reduce watering by 25%
- Collect rain water in rain barrels or warm up water from shower
- Container irrigation systems with timer
- DIY

PLANT SELECTION

- Require the same growing conditions
 - Fuchsia, Impatiens, Begonia, Streptocarpus
- Plant, container and surrounding in scale
 - Morning Glory on support, Papyrus, Petunia, Zinnia, Lantana, Asparagus Fern

BASIC DESIGN IDEA

- Thriller, Filler and Spiller - a place to start if needed
 - Hibiscus, Pennisetum, Walkabout Sunset Lysimachia and garden art
- Color
 - Warm colors of red, yellow and orange create focal point, warming
 - Cool blues, green and violets - calming, cooling and less intense
- Color echoing and texture
 - Trough with silver echoed, fine and bold texture
 - Succulents in its own pot of succulent mix set into container of potting mix
 - Begonias and Silver Falls Dichondra

LANDSCAPE MAKEOVERS WITH CONTAINERS

- Deck Screening
 - Boxwood elevated on overturned nursery pots
 - Black Lace Elderberry in front
 - Burlap wrap masks the mechanics
 - Front row colorful self-watering pots with Shenandoah Switchgrass
- End of Drive
 - Area rug covers cracks, outdoor table and chairs provide focal point and seating
 - Bananas, Mums, Geraniums, Cardinal Vines and more in individual pots

NON PLANT VERTICAL ELEMENTS

- Garden art
- Metal swirls
- Bamboo poles and dowel rods
- Colorful Dogwood and Birch or Contorted Willow twigs
- Dried material - Eucalyptus, Lotus pods, twigs

EXTEND THE SEASON

- Move containers in and out as needed
- Row covers, cloches, and Wall-o-Waters
- Overwintering
 - Move indoors and grow as houseplant
 - Take cuttings - smaller plants, less risk of bringing in pests
 - Save tubers, corms
 - Canna
 - Caladium
 - Dahlia
 - Banana
 - Some can go semi dormant - in cool, dark location
 - Mandevilla
 - Let them die a quick death with the first frost
 - Give to a friend, then buy new plants

- Overwintering hardy plants
 - Grow plants at least one zone hardier in weather-proof pot, if left outside unprotected
 - Plant in the garden and buy new ones next year
 - Bury pot in vacant space in the garden to insulate the roots
 - Keep in unheated garage in insulating material
 - Water whenever soil is thawed and dry
 - Place together in sheltered location, cover with wood chips or other item

DON'T KILL THE TREES FOR FLOWERS

- Pot set amongst perennial flowers and groundcovers
- Washtub with Thalia Fuchsia, Begonia, Streptocarpus and Impatiens
- Pot with various Begonias and Coleus
- Hostas in terra cotta pots
- Pots of Impatiens in Ajuga groundcover
- Bury several nursery pots in soil under tree - plant slightly smaller pot of flowers and set in the buried pot - less digging, better for you and the tree

A FEW MORE PLANTS TO TRY

- Little Zin Hibiscus, Flame Thrower Coleus, Spotlight Lime Sweet Potato Vine
- Moss
- Under the Sea Coleus in shell-shaped planter
- Dragon Wing, Whopper or Big Red Begonia with Licorice Vine
- Canary Wing Begonia with Elephant Ears and Golden Moneywort
- Crested Celosia and Curly Rush
- Mexican Flame Vine with Rudbeckia, Lantana, Zinnia, and Blackie Sweet Potato Vine
- *Verbena bonariensis*
- Fireworks Fountain Grass, Strawflower, Sedges
- Mighty Velvet Stachys, Coleus, Verbena
- Golf Beauty Drumstick Flower, Verbena, Petunia

- Gaura, Trailing Verbena
- Morning Glory, Papyrus, Zinnias, Vines
- Hyacinth Bean Vine, Verbena, Alternanthera, Sedge
- Solar Tower Sweet Potato Vine, Parsley, Salvia, Impatiens
- Mandevilla and Dipladenia with Celosia, Oxalis
- Snake Plant with Illumination Vinca Vine
- Kent Beauty Ornamental Oregano in teapot

GET CREATIVE

- Bidens as "coneflower"
- Black-eyed Susan Vine
- Greens in colander
- Purse planters and ladder of pots (anchor securely)
- Birdcage vertical accent - Gaura, Petunias, Geraniums
- **Stacked centerpiece** made from saucers and overturned pots
- **Living chess board** - Ajuga and Spanish Moss
- Built-in planting areas in table
- Topiary living container - Ornamental Cabbage, Begonia, Wire Vine
- Chair planter filled with succulents
- Painted bike
- Coffee urn with Fountain Grass, Lotus Vine
- Leaky birdbath and Golden Moneywort, Impatiens
- Toy truck - Wire Vine and Petunia
- Wheelbarrow filled with Wax Begonia
- Pumpkin with Ornamental Pepper
- Painted coffee cans with Annual Vinca, Pansies
- **Ruler planter filled with Pansies**
- Corsican Mint with golf ball on tee

VERTICAL ACCENTS

- Spike - the traditional, but now lots of new cultivars
- Phormium, Banana, Canna, Elephant Ears, Hibiscus, Papyrus, other tropicals
- Purple Majesty Millet, *Verbena bonariensis*, Sparkler Cleome, Sunflowers, Snapdragons, Stock and other spiky annuals
- Fountain Grass, Ornamental Grasses and Variegated Bamboo
- Russian Sage, *Cimicifuga* (Bugbane), Variegated Solomon's Seal, Palm Sedge, Gaura, Acorus and other perennials
- Bronze fennel, Dill, Lovage and other herbs
- Corn, Swiss Chard, Onions and Garlic, Beans and Cucumbers, Pole Beans or Peas on a trellis, Ornamental Mustard, Kale, Tomato, Pepper and Eggplant
- Topiary and Dwarf Evergreens
- Dappled Willow, Red Twig Dogwood and other deciduous trees and shrubs
- Vines on obelisk or trellis - Solar Tower Sweet Potato Vine, Hyacinth Bean, Morning Glory, Spanish Flag (*Mina lobata*), Canary and Cardinal Vine, Clematis and tropicals (Mandevilla)
- Branches - forced for spring, colorful for winter, height for summer
- Bulbs - give 'em a chill and then move to outdoor container

SPILLERS

- Vinca - the traditional or one of the newer cultivars like Illumination
- *Dichondra* 'Silver Falls', Golden Moneywort or Licorice Vine, Deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*)
- Trailing annuals, like Calibrachoa, Trailing Petunias, Scaevola...
- Sweet Potato Vine, Lotus Vine
- Creeping Rosemary, Oregano, Mint, Nasturtium, Sage, Strawberries
- Ivies, Giant Purple Inch Plant, Wandering Jew, Spider Plants, Philodendron and other trailing houseplants

FILLERS

- Variegated Sage, Parsley, Basil...
- Annuals, of course
 - Change out for the season, ie. Pansies
- Lettuce, Spinach, Beets, Radishes, and other ornamental vegetables
- Calendula, Pansies, Nasturtiums and other edible flowers
- Fragrant - Heliotrope, Alyssum
- Bird and butterfly appeal - Verbena, Pentas, Cupheas
- Houseplants - Ferns, Begonias, Polka Dot Plant...
- Coral Bells, Geranium, Threadleaf Coreopsis and other perennials
- Small annual and perennial Ornamental Grasses and Sedges
- Greens for winter

SEASONAL INTEREST

- Take a cue from the landscape



The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several large, pink, multi-petaled flowers, possibly peonies, with green leaves visible at the edges. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, creating a vibrant and textured backdrop.

UPCOMING APPEARANCES AND WEBINARS

Check often as more information, webinars and in-person appearances continue to be added.

Webinar June 8th

Creating Pollinator Gardens

Webinar June 9th

Sustainable Lawn and Landscape Care

Webinar June 10th

Gardening During the Summer Months

Webinar June 15th

Strategies for Adding Native Plants to Your Landscape

Webinar June 22nd

Low Growing Shrubs and Vines to Attract and Support Pollinators

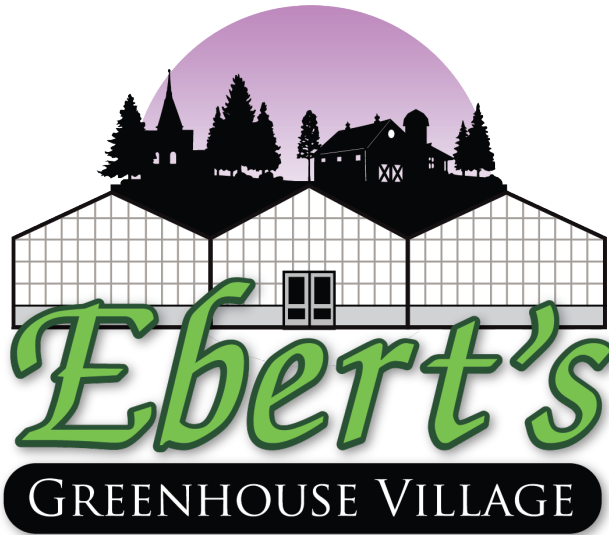
In-Person Appearance July 18th

Drought Tolerant Perennials and Shrubs for Southeastern Wisconsin
Ebert's Greenhouse Village, Ixonia, WI

Webinar July 20th

"Ask the Plant Doctor" Question & Answer Session

Thank You to

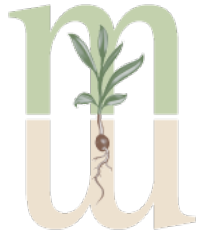


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Melinda's Garden Moment nationally syndicated TV and Radio segments

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Books

- Midwest Gardener's Handbook
- Small Space Gardening
- Midwest Lawn Guides
- Minnesota & Wisconsin Getting Started Garden Guide
- Month-by-Month Gardening in Minnesota & Wisconsin
- Michigan Getting Started Garden Guide
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