

# TURN DISCARDS, RECYCLABLES AND MEMORIES INTO CONTAINER GARDENS

Add a unique twist to your container gardens and save money this season by converting discards into fun and attractive containers. Scour your garage, shed, basement, and thrift stores for items that can hold soil and your favorite plants. Then put it all together to create a one-of-a-kind display.

**Share your creations with others on social media using [#BeautyOutsideYourDoor](#)**

## Here's What You Need

- Items that can hold potting mix and plants
  - Avoid those that once contained harsh substances
- Potting mix
- Coffee filter (*optional*)
- Drill and bit to make drainage holes
  - Or someone who can do this for you
- Safety glasses to wear when drilling holes
- Sphagnum moss, landscape fabric or a cocoa mat to hold potting mix in place if the containers have openings on the side
- Plants that complement the container and the space where the pot will be displayed

## Getting Started

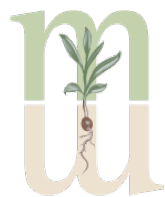
- Gather supplies and potential containers
- Add drainage holes to the bottom of the container, if needed
  - 4 to 6 holes, about 1/4" in diameter, is usually sufficient
  - Wear safety glasses while drilling
- Place the coffee filter over the drainage holes to prevent the soil from seeping out of the drainage holes (*optional*)
- Line the sides of items like colanders, pallets, and crates with landscape fabric, sphagnum moss or

a cocoa mat to keep the potting mix inside the planter

- Fill the container about 3/4 full with the potting mix
- Add plants to the container
- Cover the roots with potting mix
- The top of the potting mix should be 1/2 to 1" below the lip of the container
  - This reduces the risk of washing potting mix over the edge of the container when watering
- Add low nitrogen, slow-release [Milorganite](#) fertilizer to the top inch of potting mix at planting and 6 to 8 weeks later, if needed
  - If using a fast-release liquid fertilizer, you will need to fertilize more often according to the label directions
- Water thoroughly until the excess water drains out the bottom of the container

## Ongoing Care

- Check soil moisture daily and twice daily for small containers growing in hot sunny locations
- Water thoroughly when the top inch or two of soil is starting to dry
- Allow the potting mix where succulents and drought-tolerant plants are growing to go a bit drier before watering again



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