



[melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)

**IN A POT, YOU CAN  
GROW A LOT!**



As long as you can provide sufficient water and nutrients along with the proper growing conditions you can grow just about anything in a container. Many new compact varieties make it easier than ever to do just that.

## DESIGN TIPS

- Thriller, Filler and Spiller design strategy is a good place to start if you are new to container gardening or overwhelmed by the idea of designing a container garden.
- Rounded Mounds
- Narrow and Upright
- Nothing but Plants
- Mini Garden in a Pot
- Stacked Containers
  - Stacked Centerpiece Container
- Keep Plants and Container in Scale
  - Plants with Pot
  - Container Garden with Surroundings
- Containers Provide Function in the Landscape
  - Soften Hardscapes
  - Provide Colorful Welcome
  - Direct Traffic Away from Garden Beds
  - Fun - Living Chessboard

## USE COLOR AND TEXTURE TO HELP YOU CREATE AN ATTRACTIVE CONTAINER GARDEN

- Warm Colors
  - Energizing
  - Warmth
  - Make large area feel smaller
  - Provide focal point
- Cool Colors
  - Small areas appear larger
  - Calming
  - Cool

- Monotone
  - One dominant color, e.g. white moon garden
- Blending Colors
  - Colors that appear next to each other on the artist's color wheel
- Color Echoing
  - Repetition of color from one plant (flowers, leaves or stem) to others in the container
- Contrasting / Complementary Colors
  - Colors opposite each other on the artist's color wheel
    - ◆ Red and green
    - ◆ Blue and yellow
  - Eye-catching combinations
- Rainbow Colors
  - May be overwhelming or exactly what you want for the space
- Pantone Color of the Year
  - Viva Magenta

## TEXTURE

- Bold
  - Large leaves
  - Large and round flowers grab your attention
- Fine
  - Narrow leaves
  - Spike-like or small flowers
- Contrasting textures can be very effective

## MAINTENANCE TIPS & TRICKS

### CONTAINERS

- Drainage holes or self-watering pots
- Tolerant of weather extremes if used year-round outdoors
- Double potting - nursery pot inside decorative pot
  - For containers that lack drainage holes

## 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





- For ease of overwintering perennials, trees and shrubs in colder climates
- Coco fiber liners
  - Aqua savers - plastic infused into the liner
  - Plastic pot inside coco fiber lined pot
- Budget Wise

### **WELL-DRAINED POTTING MIX**

- Pros and cons of changing potting mix from year to year
  - Reduce risk of disease and insect problems
    - ♦ I use an organic mix and repurpose it into my garden beds or compost pile
  - Expensive to change out potting mix yearly
    - ♦ Minimally freshen it up with some new potting mix
- To fill the pot or not
  - More potting mix the more water and nutrients it holds
  - False bottoms reduce weight and soil needed in large containers
    - ♦ Purchase Ups-A-Daisy or other such item
    - ♦ Make your own
      - Plastic bottles
      - Cans
      - Cell packs...
    - ❖ Cover these with landscape fabric to prevent potting mix from settling into the bottom of the pot

### **WATERING TIPS**

- Check daily - temperature, soil mix, number of plants and type of plants influence watering
- Water thoroughly so excess runs out the bottom of the pot
- Extend time between watering
  - Plant Nannies
  - Watering globes

- Wool Pellets - sustainable organic product
- Make it easy with irrigation

### **FERTILIZATION**

- Ebert's recommends constant feed (once or twice weekly) with liquid fertilizer
  - Lots of plants in the container
- Lower maintenance
  - Low nitrogen, slow-release product like Milorganite
    - ♦ At planting and mid summer if needed

### **ELEVATE POT OFF PATIO, DECK OR BALCONY**

- Pot feet and Surface Savers
  - Better drainage and airflow
  - Reduces risk of mold and discoloring patio or deck surface

### **MOVING CONTAINERS**

- Pot Lifter
- Garden pot mover
- Planter caddy

### **OVERWINTERING PERENNIALS, TREES AND SHRUBS IN CONTAINERS**

- Grow plants in weather-proof pot
- Plants one zone hardier are better able to survive cold winters in a pot in the landscape
- Added protection
  - Insulate with bales of straw, annual planters, wood chips...
  - Move into unheated garage
    - ♦ Water whenever the soil is thawed and dry
    - ♦ Watch for voles - treat with vole repellent like Plantskydd



### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://melindamyers.com)**



## OVERWINTERING NON-HARDY PLANTS (LIKE CITRUS AND CANNAS...) IN COLD CLIMATES

- Move inside and grow like a houseplant
  - [Bananas](#)
  - [Hibiscus](#)
  - [Citrus](#)
- [Store "bulbs" in a cool, dark location](#)

## PLANT SELECTION

- Grow plants together that require the same growing conditions
- Or plant the exception in a pot with preferred potting mix and set in container with others
- [Planting Tips](#)

## CONTAINERS FOR SUN

A Few Featured Plants

### UPRIGHT

- Guara
- Coleus
- Alternanthera
- Angelonia
- Salvia
- Dragon Wing Begonia
- Gryphon Begonia
- Prairie Sun Rudbeckia
- Bromeliad
- Artichoke (Imperial Star for Northern gardens)
- Zinnia
- Celosia (crested, plume or wheat type flowers)
- Abutilon
- Hibiscus
- Aster
- Mum

- Ornamental Corn
- Palmetto
- Canna
- Snake Plant
- Rosemary
- Lavender
- Bay
- Dill
- Fennel
- Lovage
- Broccoli
- Brussels Sprouts
- Tomato
- Pepper
- Eggplant
- Tall Verbena (*V. bonariensis*)
- Ornamental Grasses
- Red Bunny Fountain Grass

- Vines (veggies and flowers) on supports
- Palms
- Rubber Tree (*Ficus*)

### FILLERS

- Pansy
- Dusty Miller
- Diamond Frost Euphorbia
- Lettuce
- Bulls' Blood Beets
- Basil
- Kale
- Swiss Chard
- Mustard
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Calendula
- Nasturtium

## PLANT INFORMATION

- [melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)
- [University of North Carolina](#)
- [Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder](#)
- [All-America Selections](#)
- Your local University Extension Service

**MISS A  
WEBINAR?**

Melinda's Webinars are  
Available On Demand!

**[WATCH NOW](#)**

Sign up for my  
*Free*  
**Newsletter!**

*Get the chance to win a  
seasonal prize!*

**[SIGN UP NOW](#)**



- Angelonia
- Bromeliad
- Cuphea
- Parsley and other herbs
- Alternanthera
- Coleus
- Plectranthus hybrids
- Salvia
- Zinnia
- Dragon Wing Begonia
- Gryphon Begonia

- Celosia (crested, plume or wheat type flowers)
- Corkscrew Rush (invasive in some areas)
- Abutilon
- Peppers
- Eggplant
- Prairie Sun Rudbeckia
- Aster
- Mum
- Petunia

### TRAILING

- Cuphea
- Calibrachoa
- Golden Moneywort
- Mint
- Oregano
- Sage
- Silver Falls Dichondra
- Sweet Potato Vine
- Laurentia
- Black-eyed Susan Vine

- Lobelia
- Nasturtium
- Petunia
- Licorice Vine
- Trailing Verbena
- Trailing Plectranthus
- Trailing Tomato
- Alternanthera

## CONTAINERS FOR SHADE

A Few Featured Plants

*Some are also adaptable to sunnier locations.*

### UPRIGHT

- Kale
- Swiss Chard
- Hosta
- Gartenmeister and Thalia Fuchsia
- Banana Plant
- Elephant Ears
- Palms
- Snowbush (*Breynia disticha*)

### FILLER

- Lettuce
- Kale
- Swiss Chard
- Downy Mildew resistant Impatiens
  - Beacon
  - Glimmer
  - New Guinea
  - Sunpatiens

- Torenia
- Coral Bells (*Heuchera*)
- Oxalis
- Coleus
- Bergenia
- Begonia
- Rex Begonia
- Crossandra
- Fern
- Plectranthus
- Hosta

### TRAILING

- Pilea
- Golden Moneywort (moneywort is invasive)
- Tradescantia
- Bacopa
- Trailing Fuchsia
- Oxalis
- Streptocarpella
- English Ivy (invasive in some areas)
- Sweet Potato Vine
- Hakone or Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonachloa*)
- And Moss



## **DON'T HARM THE TREES**

- Sink nursery pot in ground - set smaller planted pot inside that
- Set containers on soil surface among groundcovers

## **EDIBLE PLANTS**

- Combine veggies, herbs and fruit with ornamental plants for variety
- Greater productivity when edible plants are grown in their own containers
- Tomatoes in Container
  - Tomatoes: Tips & Tricks webinar
  - Password: vM\$48Cx!
  - Handout
- Indeterminate
  - Grow and flower until pruned late season or killed by frost
  - Need support
  - Large 5 gallon or larger pot
  - Improves yield in container 14-20" wide
- Determinate
  - Grow a certain height and stop
  - Some need support - others do not
  - 2-3 gallon pot
  - Patio Choice Yellow tomato (AAS winner)
- Semi-determinate or trailing in hanging basket
  - Lizzano, Torenzo (AAS winners) and others
- Challenges with small upside down tomato planters
  - Weight
  - Watering needs
  - DIY solution - 5 gallon pot turned upside down planter

## **EDIBLE FLOWERS**

- Nasturtium
- Calendula
- More...
- Colorado State University
  - List of toxic plants to avoid and those that are safe to eat

## **HERBS**

- Growing Nutritious Herbs & Vegetables in a Garden or Container webinar
  - Password: MWc3&8!u
  - Handout

## **FRUIT**

- Strawberries
  - Day-neutral and everbearing - frequent harvests
  - June bearing (one crop) and day-neutral produce runners
  - Delizz (AAS winner)
    - ◆ Start from seeds indoors in spring
    - ◆ Fruit the first year
  - Strawberry pot or bag
    - ◆ Use PVC tube with holes in center of container to deliver water to all parts of the planter
  - Overwintering strawberries
    - ◆ Sink plastic pot in the ground in vacant part of the garden
    - ◆ In unheated garage - may damage clay or terracotta pots as soil freezes and expands
  - Bushel and Berry compact fruit
- Blueberries
  - ◆ Only need one plant to produce fruit
  - ◆ 2 varieties grown close together yields more than double
  - ◆ Perpetua produces several harvests
- Raspberry Shortcake
  - ◆ Thornless
  - ◆ Produce flowers and fruit on first year canes
- Baby Cakes Blackberry
  - ◆ Thornless
  - ◆ Remove 2<sup>nd</sup> year canes after fruiting
- Narrow, upright apples or dwarf varieties
  - ◆ Urban, Red & Golden Sentinel
  - ◆ Need 2 varieties or nearby crabapple for pollination
  - ◆ A few self-fertile varieties, like Jon-a-Red



## **SUCCULENTS**

- String of Pearls
- **Zigzag Cactus**
- Hens and Chicks  
(*Sempervivum*)

- Sedums
- Senecio
- Aeonium
- Echeveria
- Agave

- Aloe
- Ghost Plant  
(*Graptopetalum*)
- Kalanchoe
- Crassula

- Stacked Planter
- Succulent Topiary
- Window Box
- **Green Roof Bird Feeder**
- **Succulent Wreath**

## **WATER PLANTS IN CONTAINERS**

- Create water garden in container without drainage holes
- Plants in containers with drainage holes or slits in side
- Aquatic potting mix
- Top with pea gravel if desired

### **PLANTS**

- Water Lilies
- Acorus
- Carex
- Parrot's Feather (invasive)
- Chameleon Plant (invasive)
- Corkscrew Rush (invasive in some areas)

- Pitcher Plant
- Pickerelweed
- Ruellia
- Canna
- Thalia
- Elephant Ears
- Papyrus

## **BOG**

"Bog is a nutrient-poor peatland characterized by acidic, saturated peat and the prevalence of sphagnum mosses and ericaceous shrubs" Michigan State University

- Grow a few native bog plants in a container without drainage holes
- Potting mix
  - 50% sphagnum peat moss
  - 30% horticultural sand
  - 20% long fiber sphagnum moss
- OR
- 1 part horticultural sand
- 2 parts peat moss
- Couple handfuls of sphagnum moss

*Do not release plants into waterways at end of season*

## **TROUGHS**

- **Make your own**

## **HANGING BASKETS**

- Additional growing space
- Screening
- Dress up walls or fences
- Add color in the shade
  - Hang with straps from tree branches
- Black-eyed Susan vine (*Thunbergia*) climbing up and trailing down basket
- Use pulley system, irrigation or extendable watering wand for ease of watering



## WINDOW BOXES

- Dress up home and structures
- Complement the architecture of house and your landscape
- Provide privacy
- Place to easily open windows as needed
- Alternative displays
  - Set on shelf
  - Plants and birdhouses on top not in window box

## SEASONAL DISPLAYS

- Spring flowering bulbs
  - Buy pre-cooled
  - Set potted bulbs in container
  - Forcing bulbs
  - Post flowering care
- Twigs from spring flowering plants
- Plan ahead for holidays, gatherings and special occasions
- Summer - lots of options
- Fall
  - Foliage and flower color
  - Mums
  - Asters
  - Rudbeckia
  - Grasses
  - Lettuce
  - Kale
  - Mustards
  - Ornamental Peppers (frost sensitive)
  - Create dried arrangements from landscape trimmings
- Winter
  - Greens
  - Berry covered and colorful branches
  - Decorations

## UPCYCLED CONTAINERS

- Anything that can hold potting mix and drainage holes can be added

## DISPLAY IDEAS

- Group together for greater impact
- On shelves
- In the garden
- Use plants that echo plants in surrounding gardens





## **UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS**

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

**March 25<sup>th</sup>**

2023 Outagamie Co. Master Gardener Association Garden Conference

[More Information](#)

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**

REALTORS Home and Garden Show

[More Information](#)

**March 29<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

[Understanding Gardening Basics to Boost Your Gardening Success](#)

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**

REALTORS Home and Garden Show

[More Information](#)

**April 5<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

[What's New - Discover New & Unique Plants!](#)

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Southwest Indiana Master Gardener Association

[More Information](#)

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

[Growing a Bountiful Harvest Even When Time, Space & Budget are Limited](#)

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Pasquesi Home & Gardens

[More Information](#)

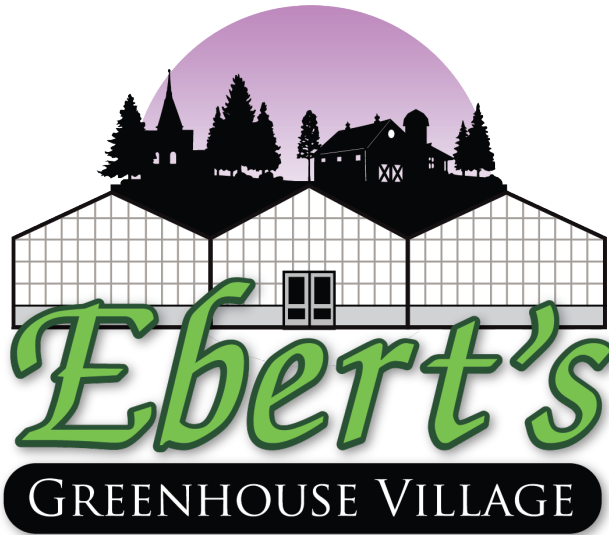
**April 25<sup>th</sup>**

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

[More Information](#)



*Thank You to*



*for Sponsoring this Webinar*

Visit [ebertsgreenhouse.com](http://ebertsgreenhouse.com)



Melinda's Garden Moment AUDIO TIPS

Melinda's Garden Moment VIDEO TIPS

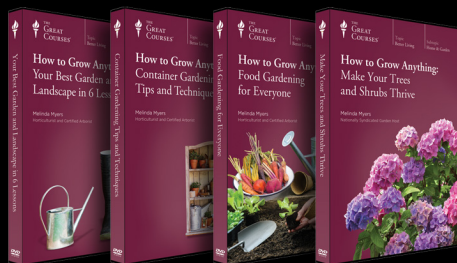
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLISTS & MORE

BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR MY E-NEWSLETTER TO GET TIMELY GARDENING TIPS AND A CHANCE TO WIN



melindamyers.com



THE GREAT COURSES "How to Grow Anything"

### DVD SERIES

Food Gardening for Everyone

Make Your Trees and Shrubs Thrive

Your Best Garden and Landscape

Container Tips and Techniques

## 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

Month-by-Month Gardening in Michigan

Month-by-Month Gardening in Iowa



Birds & Blooms Magazine

## CONNECT WITH ME

