

# CULTIVATE DESIGN KC

## HOW TO PLANT CONTAINERS IN 6 STEPS



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### STEP 1 Where to Place Container

Before you purchase anything, decide where you would like your planted container to go. Determine what type of sun light exposure is available. Is there a water source near by?

Is there a color palette you are thinking of? Will the over all look be full and round or tall with cascading laterals?

### Step 2 Soil

To start with outdoor plants potted in containers need, they will a more lightweight soil compared to top soil. You can accomplish this by combining peat moss to compost such as mushroom or other 100% organic soil.

### STEP 3 Containers

Choose a pot with a drain hole or add one to the bottom of the pot. If the pot is porous, you may need to water more often during high heat or draught. If there is not a built in tray for the water, purchase a separate one.

### STEP 4 Plants

Plants- Choose plants that will thrive in the location you have chosen.

Research their origin. Where is their native location and climate?

What is their height and width at maturity? How much sun light or water do they need?

## STEP 5 Adding Plants

Start by adding some rocks or broken terra cotta to the bottom of the pot so the water drains well and roots do not rot. Take the plants out of their original pots and loosen up their root system at the bottom and along the sides. You can do this by literally pulling or cutting the bottom off where the roots are bound. Loosening these roots helps them to stay unbound and be ready to spread out and grow in new container.



After planting, place container into new location, give plants a healthy drink. Stand back, smile and enjoy your accomplishment.

## STEP 6 Adding Soil

Add soil about  $\frac{3}{4}$  into the pot. Position the plants where you want them and add more soil to stabilize them.

Very important- the soil level should stop about 2-3 inches from the top. This way, in the hot summer, fill the container with water all the way to the brim. This will allow for the soil to adequately absorb the water needed in the heat. Otherwise, you'll have to water 3-4 times per day in 90\* or hotter.

## .BONUS TIPS

Things to keep in mind- Two taller containers flanking a front entrance or walkway close to a front porch with Purple Fountain Grass, pink lantana, butter yellow petunia and cascading purple potato plant, look majestic.

A round mound or hanging basket container is achieved with a grouping of 3 varieties that grow in a mounding and cascading form, such as verbena, petunia and calibrachoa.



## BONUS TIPS CONTINUED

The best look for a collection of pots is to keep it simple, not messy.

For a stair case, deck or patio, all of the pots style should be the same but may be in different sizes.

Keep the number of plant varieties limited to 3-5, and choose a pleasing color pallet. Three colors will do. They can be complementing colors (opposite on the color wheel) such as cobalt blue, periwinkle blue and butter yellow or analogous (neighboring colors on the wheel) such as blue, red and purple.

## .ACTION STEPS

- Decide on location for potted containers
- Use a lightweight soil
- Use a container with a drain hole, built in tray or buy a saucer
- Research the plants, their origin, maturity size, sun and light requirements
- Adding plants to container, loosen their root system
- Position plants, secure with soil, not adding too much. Leave 2-3 inches from top.

Happy Planting,  
Lori Neely