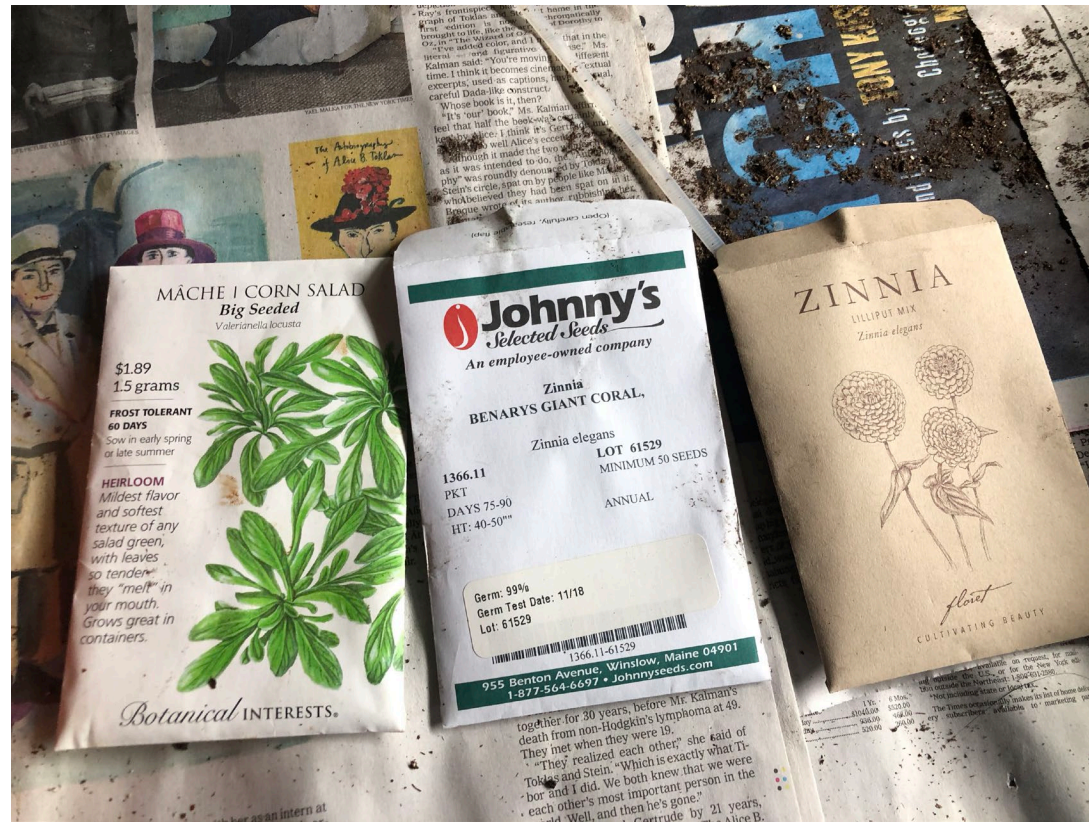


Gardening from seed

An adventure



What you need:

Seeds

Seed starting mix (soil)

Water supply

Light supply

Heating matt

Marker sticks

Gloves

Patience



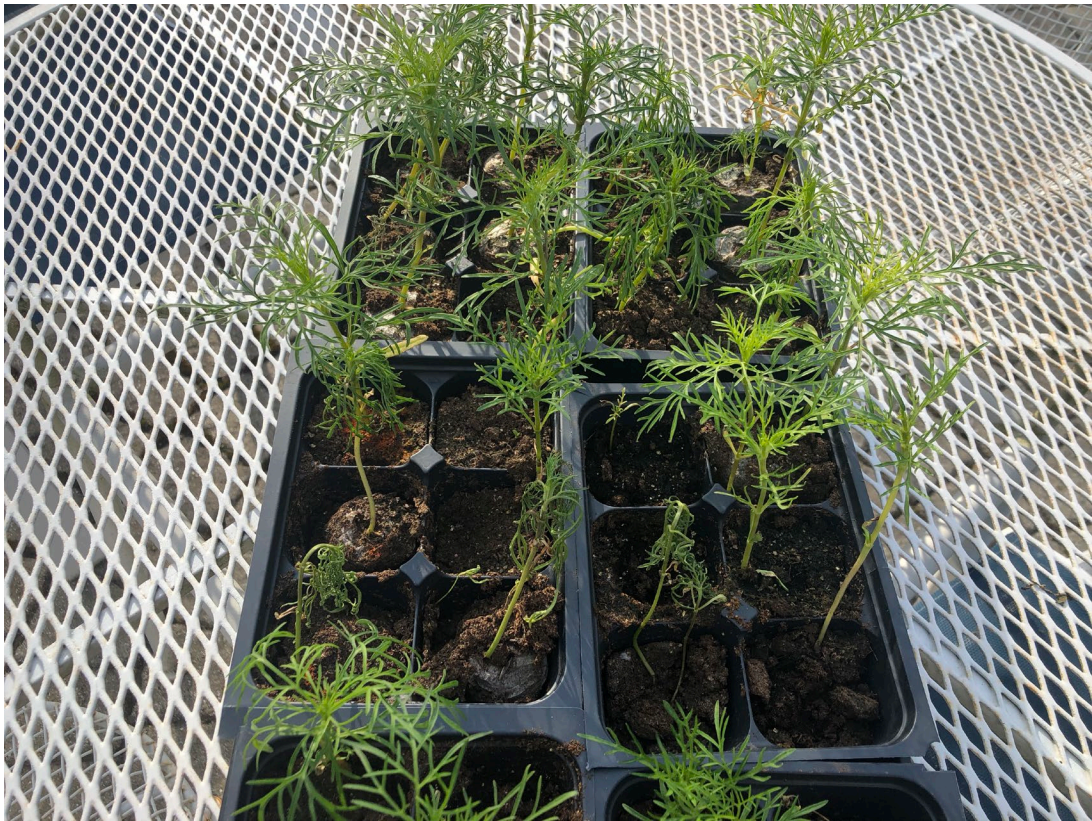
You need a light source and a heating mat







It's easy, it's inexpensive, it's fun!



Zinnia's that were grown from seeds



resources

- Gardener's Supply company
- Gardeners.com
- Family run. Good service and excellent products
- Floret Flower Farm
- Floretflowers.com
- Seeds,
- Books
- Blogs
- Tutorials

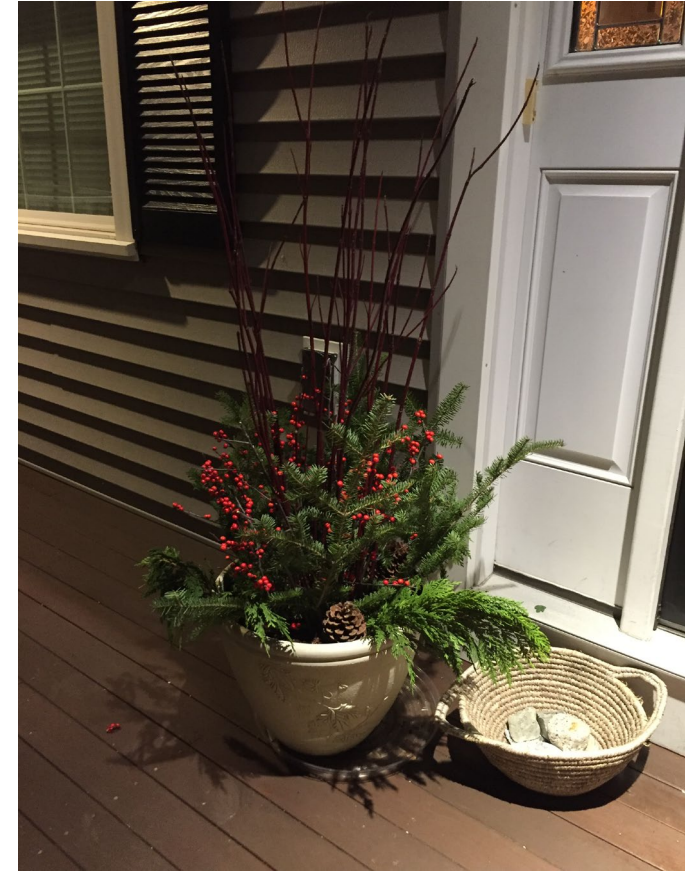
Container Gardening

The practice of growing plants in a container instead of planting them in the ground. A container can be anything that is enclosed and usually portable. It needs to have holes at the bottom to allow for drainage so roots do not drown.



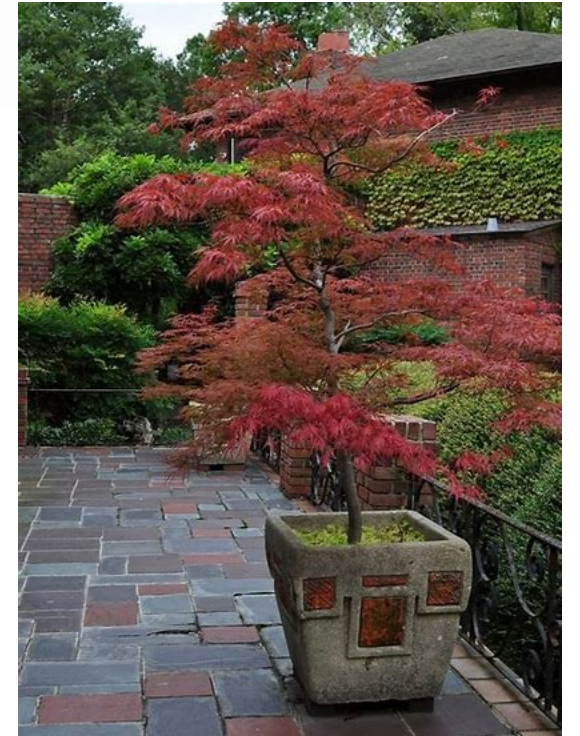
Why plant in containers?

- Useful for first time gardeners to learn about plants
- Limited space or rental space or limited time to garden
- To figure out where your garden should be and how you want to arrange your plants – containers are portable
- To decorate an area – porch, patio. You can be creative - changing your container by season using the same container and soil.
- To contain an aggressive plant – i.e. mint plant
- To keep plants away from garden pests (rabbits, voles)
- To grow plants in summer months that are usually from tropical areas – mandevilla or bougainvillea



What to plant in your containers ... things to consider

- You can plant anything in a container as long as it is big enough to hold it – Trees, shrubs, flowers (annual/perennial), vegetables, cacti, and herbs.
- Your plant selection should depend on available light for the container and all plants should have same water requirements.
- How many plants in your container depends on how you plan to use your container and the size.



If planting vegetables – things to consider

- You can plant flowers in with some vegetables
- Many vegetables will require a vertical support or cage
- Because containers are portable, you can control light
- Make sure you know the light and water requirements



Using containers as a garden in your landscape (single plant container)

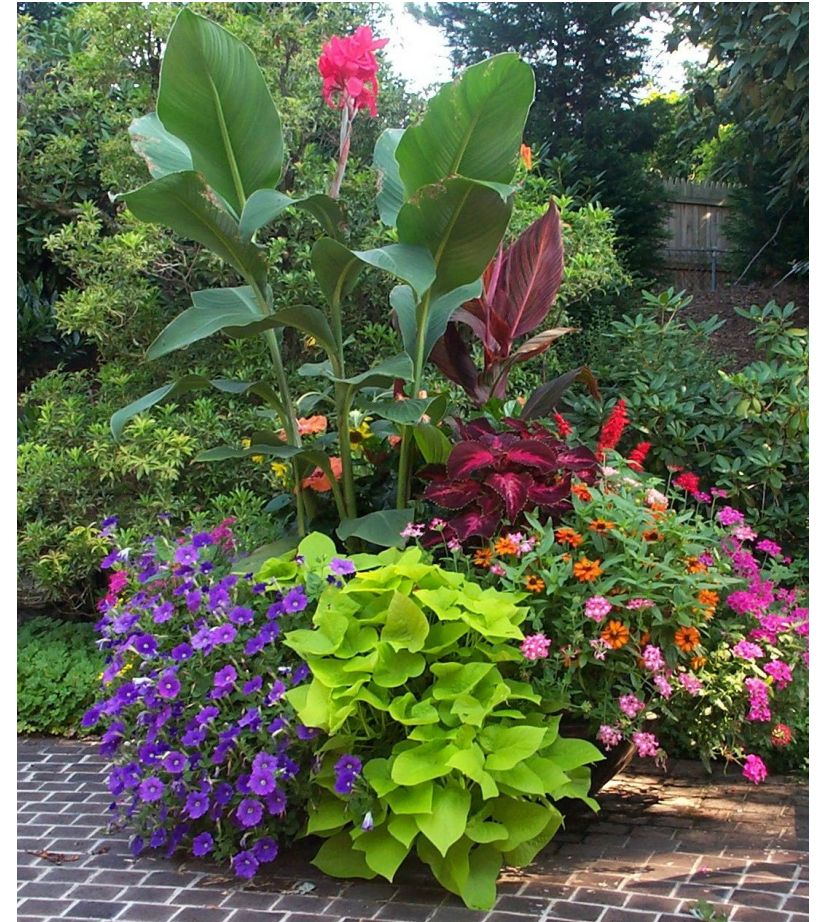
- Plant single plant containers of varying heights/colors in large containers
- They can be arranged varying ways
- This method allows you to determine best area for your garden
- You can also use these containers to fill bare areas of your garden
- Allows one to experiment with various plants and areas of your yard



Most popular use – Decorative!

Thriller, Filler, Spiller –
components of successful
container arrangements!

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)



Thriller Plants – big, bold – focal point

Thriller
Plant is
placed in
back or
center of
container
depending
how the
container is
viewed.



Filler Plants – rounded or mounded plants that fill in the middle area of the container

- Favorite plants for fillers in containers:
 - Impatiens
 - Begonias
 - Supertunia
 - Pansies and violas
 - Coleus
 - Various Herbs



Spiller Plants

- Spiller plants are those that will grow and tumble on the sides of the planter. They echo or contrast with the pot's other plants by shape, color or texture.
- Favorite summer container spiller plants are:
 - Sweet Potato Vines
 - Trailing rosemary
 - Petunias
 - Creeping jenny
 - Sweet Alyssum



Planting your container – Steps

1. Fill the container with soil 2/3rds full. Place the plants (in their plastic pots) in the container and arrange. Only plant what the container can hold.
2. Take each plant in it's plastic pot and submerge in a pot of water so each plant's rootball will soak up water – this way all the plants will have uniform hydration and won't have any air pockets
3. Invert each plant out of it's plastic sleeve container and put the plastic sleeve container into the soil so it sits within an inch of the container's rim.
4. Take potting soil and fill in around the plastic sleeves and firm the soil in between each crevice between the pots. Pull the sleeves out and then put the plants in the holes. See YouTube video of this method here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSbh03sSphU>

Tips

- Don't use garden soil. Make sure to use good potting soil. Make sure that the pot has good drainage holes.
- Do allow for growth of plants. If using vertical support, you should install when planting.
- Check moisture level often by putting finger into the soil up to knuckle. If it feels dry, it needs water. Best to water in morning.
- Fertilize your containers all season long, either weekly at half strength or monthly at full strength.
- If you plan on moving container around, make sure to plant in lightweight plastic. Bigger containers are best.
- Use your local garden center as a resource.

Perennials for Shade

- Hostas
- Heuchera (coral bells)
- Astilbe
- Digitalis (foxglove)
- Hakonechloa (Japanese grass)
- Primula (Primrose)
- Lamium maculatum (Dead Nettle)
- Tiarella Cordifolia (Foamflower)
- Pulmonaria (Lungwort)
- Hellebore



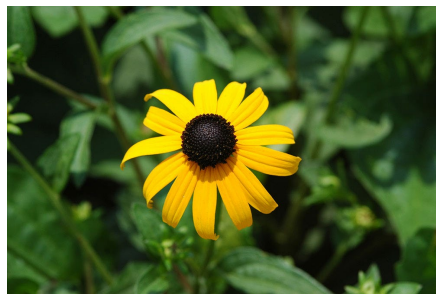
Annuals for Shade

- Coleus
- Fuchsia
- Begonia
- New Guinea Impatiens
- Sweet Alyssum
- Lobelias
- Caladium
- Violas



Perennials for Sun

- Blanket Flower
- Salvia
- Coreopsis
- Coneflower
- Delphinium
- Black-eyed Susan
- Sedum
- Dianthus
- Daylily
- Peony
- Iris
- Shasta Daisies



Annuals for Sun

- Marigolds
- Zinnias
- Cosmos
- Petunias
- Angelonia
- Lisianthus
- Sunflowers
- Vinca
- Penta
- Portulaca

