

HOUSEPLANTS DEPARTMENT



CONTAINER GARDENING

By Dee Beckman

Dee's favorite plants for container gardens:

- *Abutilon* spp - An open and arching tree, shrub w/grace. Maple like leaves. Nodding hibiscus flowers. Colors pink, yellow, red. Tall
- *Alocasia* spp - Tender evergreen with striking leaves that has a touch of tropical feel. Leaves are 12 to 16" long. Color, greens w/ white variegation. Tallish
- *Asparagus* spp - Many houseplants make good container plants and this is it. Great filler to hang down around the base. Color is green. Hanging plant.
- *Rex Begonia* - Easy low light plant that has striking colored leaves that range from green to yellow to purple. Medium height.
- *Canna* spp - This large leaved sub-tropical plant great for centerpiece. The leaves come in many colors from dark purple to striped yellow chartreuse w/ red edges. The flowers are just wonderful. Tall 3 to 6 feet.
- *Chlorophytum* spp - This spider plant is a great foliage plant to hang over the sides of the pot. Colors are solid green to variegated white or yellow. Short.
- *Hedera* spp - Reliable easy to grow evergreen ivy. Excellent trailer and filler, colors are green and variegated yellows and white. Long vine.
- *Lavandula* (lavender) - Great filler tolerant to dry conditions, compact plant with silvery gray foliage and purple flower heads. Medium height
- *Musa* (banana) - Great new centerpiece plant that has large red or green leaves that may produce fruit. Tall.
- *Ostoespermum* spp – Vigorous spreading plant that produces nonstop white, purple or yellow daisy like flowers with purple center. New compact varieties available. Evergreen foliage great filler. Medium to tall
- *Geranium* – You can't go wrong with this one. Low water requirements. Dense foliage from dark green to variegated yellow. Colors range from white, pink, orange and red. Med height

- Phormium (new Zealand Flax) - Great centerpiece variegated colors range, black to ping and bright yellow. Tall.
- Plectranthus - A type of Swedish Ivy, lots of new varieties. Fuzzy smelly leaves ranging from silver, purple to yellow. Nice lavender flowers at the end of the season. Low growing vine.
- Salvia spp - Bushy foliage with rich color for it's flowers, purple to reds. Upright shape. Med to short.
- Solenostgemon (coleus) - The leaves come in all colors under the rainbow except blue. Different shaped leaves too. Med to tall.
- Tomiea (Piggy back plant) - Nice leafy foliage plant that hangs over the edge of the pot. Shade tolerant but needs lots of fertilizer. Colors range from greens to chartreuse yellow. Short.
- Tradescantia - A popular houseplant but rarely used in container gardens outside. A great foliage plant with green to purple to white variegated leaves, purple flowers in late summer. Med to long.
- Verbena spp - Grown for its intense color of it flowers. These trailing to upright plants are easy to grow. Colors range from pink, red to yellow. Med to tall