



10 Plants For *Dazzling* Container Gardens

Looking for a quick way to spruce up your home's curb appeal or create the outdoor living room in the backyard that you've always dreamt about?

Think container gardening.

One secret to successful container gardens is choosing the right plants and putting them in the right spots. For a back patio that bakes in the afternoon sun, choose a heat- and sun-loving plant such as a geranium. For a shady spot that gets little or no direct sun, select a plant that naturally grows comfortably in the shade of a canopy of trees.

Another key to successful containers is choosing the right plants for a mixed container planting.

Plants need to have the same rate of growth, so one plant doesn't completely overtake the others. Also, typically you want to have one plant in the center as the focal point, such as a cyperus papyrus or a banana, and have other plants as fillers and even a variety or two that cascade down the sides of the pot.

Don't know a passion flower from a hibiscus? Here is Byron Martin's list of Top 10 easy-to-grow container plants for a dazzling summer display: