

# Themed Container Gardening in 5 Easy Steps

Gardening in containers took the public by storm quite a few years back... The public loved it and the nurseries responded. It is a “trend” that is here to stay. We have containers in every size, shape, and media. Faux concrete and iron, glazed pots, Mexican fired pottery, and terracotta. The plant choices are endless. Plants never considered for containers are happily living in pots. Themed gardens are all the rage. You can have your own tropical paradise, Asian garden, or Southwest Desert on your patio. All it takes is 5 easy steps and your imagination.

Step 1: Location, location, location...

Choose your location and determine the reason for your creation.

What are you trying to achieve from your container? Are you hiding something, adding color to a patio, needing privacy, or softening your entry way.

Take the amount of sunlight and container size into consideration. Smaller containers will dry out quickly in hot locations.

Step 2: Choose your container...

When selecting your container, remember to ask the following questions?

What is the style of my home, what color will complement, will it look balanced, and the size the plants will be in a few years.

Elevate your container using “pot feet”, small bricks, or plant trivets. Good drainage and air circulation make plants happy.

All containers must have drain holes-no exceptions!

Step 3: Selecting your “planting media” and keeping your garden happy and well fed.

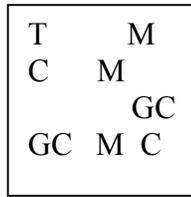
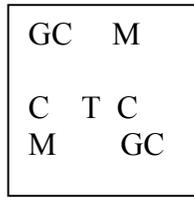
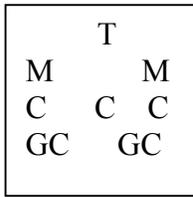
We recommend using a high quality planting mix. Life in containers is harder than in the ground so give your plants the best soil possible. Never use “bulk” soil or soil from your yard-it is too heavy and will compact later.

We use Fir Step, Gardner & Bloome Organic Planting mix, or Black Gold. Use an extended release fertilizer like Osmocote to keep everyone happy.

Step 4: Selecting your plants.

Remember to take sun exposure and water requirements into consideration when selecting your garden. Group plants with “like” requirements together, full sun with heat lovers, shade with shade lovers. Mix evergreens, deciduous, annuals, perennials and shrubs together to get the longest bloom time and foliage interest. Balanced containers will have height, texture and color throughout the year. Texture and plant height is very important.

Here are a few sample placements for plants.



T =Tall Plants  
M= Medium/mounding  
C=Colorful annual/perennial  
GC= Ground cover/trailing

Placement of plants is not a perfect science-play around with your plants to see what looks best.

Step 5: Love your container with routine maintenance. You created this oasis so give it a little TLC. Replace tired/bloomed out plants seasonally, deadhead and trim as needed. Water and fertilize regularly to keep your garden happy.

For more information and more garden information please visit us at  
[www.eldoradonursery.com](http://www.eldoradonursery.com)

***This handout is worth 20% off any container at El Dorado Nursery & Garden.  
You must have this piece of paper for the discount.***