

EXPERT TIPS FOR YOUR **CONTAINER GARDEN**

SMALL-SPACE GARDENING

COMPANION PLANTING GUIDE:
pairings made easy

*Find the
best plants
for your
zone!*

24 SIZE-WISE
GARDENS YOU
CAN CREATE!

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EDIBLE GARDEN:**
Herbs, veggies
and
fruit trees

**YOUR NEXT
WEEKEND DIY:**
**4 clever
containers**

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Container Planting Tips from a Pro

Nervous about planting a container garden? Have no fear! Robert Welsch of Westover Landscape Design shares his insider knowledge on how to plant beautiful, lasting creations.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT PLANTS ARE THE BEST TO COMBINE?

Think about light conditions and the size, shape and location of the container. For a container in a mostly shady seating area, I want something low and lush since it would be viewed up close. Next, I go to several local wholesale nurseries to come up with sample combinations based on the best looking plant material at the time.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR PROPER PLANTING TECHNIQUES?

Start with good drainage and good soil—like an organic potting mix. Wet the potting mix as

you add it to the container to get out any air pockets. Next, arrange your plants and plant them a little high—one to two inches above the rim. Add hardwood mulch to give a finished look. This also keeps the roots cool and helps to prevent weeds from taking hold.

DO YOU HAVE A RECIPE FOR COMBINING PLANT HEIGHT, COLOR AND BLOOMS?

My one rule is to throw out the rules! Have fun, be expressive, be creative and dare to be different! Your container plantings should reflect your personality and make you happy.



When creating a secret garden-inspired escape, less is more.

SMALL SPACE TIP!

Maximize available garden space by layering plants and including border plants that offer an extra dose of fresh color.

A CLASSIC GARDEN

PHOTO BY RICH POMERANTZ
LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY WESTOVER LANDSCAPE DESIGN, INC.

The bluestone terrace in this intimate suburban garden may not be expansive, but it does make the space feel larger thanks to its offset pattern and smooth finish. Lush plants spill over the clean lines of the terrace, a delicate frame that makes the garden feel welcoming and quaint. A classic wicker table set encourages alfresco dining and dons cushions that pick up on the blue hues of the stone below. Rather than installing a permanent awning or using a table umbrella, a simple, market-style umbrella set to the side offers just the right amount of shade and can easily be moved as needed.

CLOSER LOOK:

Identifying plant picks

- Oak-leaf hydrangeas, *Hydrangea quercifolia*
- Japanese forest grass, *Hakonechloa macra*