



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

Creative Fall Containers

Get creative this fall with containers that are sure to stun your guests. Fall is not only perfect for sweater weather, crunchy leaves, and a cozy rom-com marathon, fall is for gardening too! If you are limited on space or you just want to jazz up those porch steps, creating your own fall containers are a great way to go. Mike Westphal is here to guide you through the steps to creating different, original fall containers for that dream fall porch we see in the movies.

FALL CONTAINERS

Now that the fall plants are back in stock, it's time to make the perfect porch containers. All containers from McDonald Garden Center start with 3 main elements: a filler, a spiller, and a thriller. This formula works for any container and helps you create the perfect combo in 3 easy steps. You will need to choose plants that fit these 3 descriptors and Mike, the Garden Guru, has created some of the following examples for you to work off of.

- Container #1 -

You will need:

- Lemon Cypress (thriller).
- Your pansy of choice (try to go for high contrast, this will be your filler/spiller).
- Ornamental Kale (Filler).
- Terracotta pot.
- McDonald Garden Center Natural and Organic potting soil (or a potting soil that is available to you).

After filling your terracotta pot with a base of soil, you will want to place your lemon cypress tree in the middle of your pot. Make sure not to bury any

of the trunk, as this may affect the health of your cypress. Once the lemon cypress is stable, you are going to alternate your pansies and ornamental kale around the lemon cypress. For a fuller affect, tilt your ornamental kale outward and pull apart your pansies delicately. Fill any edges in with soil and then you have a beautiful planted container!

PRO TIP: Feed your newly-planted fall containers with Espoma Bio-tone Starter Plus to give your plants the very best start in their new container.



Container #1 from the Creative Fall Containers webinar

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Creative Fall Containers

- Container #2 -

You will need:

- Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio' ornamental grass (thriller).
- A garden mum in your choice of color.
- A heuchera - Mike is using the Southern Comfort variety. (Filler)
- Glazed ceramic pot of your choice (Mike is going for an more neutral toned pot).
- McDonald Garden Center Natural and Organic potting soil (or a potting soil that is available to you).

After filling your pot with a base of soil, you will want to place your ornamental grass to one of the back sides of your pot. Where you position the grass is dependent on where you would like the pot to be facing. Once the grass is placed, you can then add in your garden mum and heuchera in the remaining space. You want this to look full, but not crowded, so make sure the pot you choose for this planting has sufficient space for all the plants. If you have a little extra space, you can always add in a pop of color with a pansy. Once the mum expires, you can also fill in that empty space with pansies, or any other hardy plant to keep your container through the winter months.



Container #2 from the Creative Fall Containers webinar

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Our Favorite Fall Blooming Plants

- Container #3 -

You will need:

- Mahonia tree (thriller).
- Aralia (Mike is using the Sun King variety, this will be one of your spillers)
- Amarillo Carex (spiller)
- A garden mum (this will also be one of your fillers)
- Heuchera of your choice (Mike is using the Fire Alarm variety, filler)
- Ajuga (filler)
- Ornamental Kale (Mike is using a Dinosaur Kale, this will be an extra thriller).
- Very large glazed ceramic container in any style you like. Mike is using a steel-grey textured container. You will want at least a 24-inch diameter.
- McDonald Garden Center Natural and Organic potting soil (or a potting soil that is available to you).



Container #3 from the Creative Fall Containers webinar

After filling your pot with a base of soil, you will want to place your mahonia tree to one of the back sides of your pot. Take advantage of the shape of the tree to create an interesting shape to your planted container. Add soil as needed when planting to stabilize your plants. Once the mahonia is placed, you can then add in your aralia. Tilt your plants as needed to get the most attractive angle of the plant. Prune your mahonia as needed to make room for your other plants. Add the rest of your plants as they fit. Feel free to change out any plants for ones you may prefer more for your container. Fill in soil as needed.

To really get that fall flair, try to squeeze a pumpkin in your container as well!

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