



There are so many benefits of creating containers using only foliage plants. They are low maintenance, have lasting good looks and require less waste, just to name a few. And all foliage containers are easy to put together if you follow a few simple steps.

1. Ensure interest and keep things from being boring by introducing contrast.

Different forms, shapes and textures will give your containers that long-lasting “wow” factor. And even without flowers make sure you consider color. After all, foliage has color and can provide wonderful contrast. Consider the chartreuse leaves of *Lysimachia* combined with the dark purple clover-like leaves of *Oxalis*. It’s not just the leaves that have color, think about stems as well in your designs.

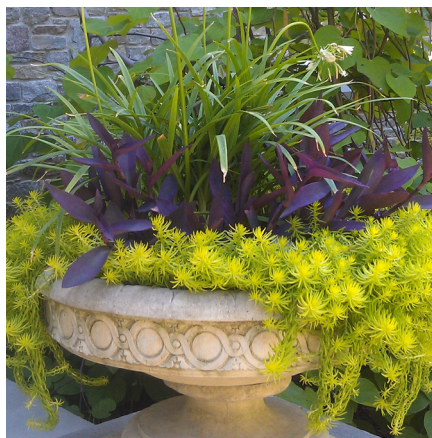
2. Mix and match patterns by considering the “power of three”.

Choose an inspiration plant - you might like the colorful leaf or graceful form. This is your star. If your inspiration has a loud colorful pattern add another plant (#2) that has two of the same colors but on a smaller scale. Then your final plant (#3) can be just one color.



3. Don’t forget texture.

Try to combine textures like fine (think fern), medium and coarse (think hosta leaves).





Favorite “Lead” Plants

- Coleus - different habits - mounding, upright, trailing
- Cannas
- Colocasia
- Croton
- Shell Ginger (Alpina zerumbet)

Great Textured Plants

- Plectranthus
- Heuchera - also wonderful colorful leaves!
- Dichondra ‘Silver Falls’
- Salvia argentea
- Strobilanthes

Great Trailers & Weavers

- Alternanthera
- Irisene
- Lysimachia
- Muehlenbeckia
- Thyme



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