

The Unconstrained Container

Jill Nooney and Jacquelyn Nooney
NE Grows / January 31, 2006

I. The Container

II. Design Principles

From Simple to Complex

1. One Plant/ One Pot

include bulbs, perennials and woodies

Series of One Plant/One Pot segues into
Collection of pots

2. Form

- a. single form per pot - spiky, floppy, foamy, bold
- b. combos

3. Color

- a. same
- b. similar
- c. contrasting
- d. clashing, "What the Hell"

IV. Placement

1. Height

- a. build up from the ground
- b. suspend off the ground

2. Containers on the wall

3. Containers used to mark a transition between

- a. public and personal space, such as a house entrance
- b. patio spaces and the rest of the garden
- c. spaces within the garden

4. Focal point

V. Tips

- 1. Use repetition of color, container and form. Repetition creates unity.
- 2. Containers often look better elevated; vary heights in a collection of containers.
- 3. Combine forms - spiky, floppy, foamy, bold
- 4. Heighten impact of container by strategic placement
- 5. Go for it, experiment, and remember - they are only plants

A Few Plant Suggestions

Spiky

Agave – a
Aloe – a
Bromeliads - a
Cordyline - a
Iris - p
Phormium – a
Pineapple – a
Veronica - p
Yucca – p

Floppy/Trailing

Alternanthera d. Rubiginosa - a
Artemisia "Silver Brocade" –p
Bacopa – a
Campanula portenschlagiana – p
Dicondra argentea – a
Impomea batatas – a
Lysimachia nummularia – p
Scaevola – a
Thyme – p
Tradescantia – a&p

Fluffy/Foamy

Anthemis – p
Asparagus – p
Bidens – a
Brachycome – a
Coreopsis – p
Cyperus – a
Erigeron – p
Foeniculum (fennel) – a
Gaura – p
Nigella - a

Bold

Alocasia/Colocasia – a
Asarum - p
Bananas – a
Bergenia – p
Canna – a
Chard – a
Darmera – p
Hosta – p
Nicotiana sylvestris – a
Rhubarb – p

PS Don't forget to use ornamental
grasses in your containers

a = annual
p = perennial

Jill Nooney
Fine Garden Art
45 High RD
Lee NH 03824
603 659 2993
www.finegarden.com

Jacquelyn Nooney
Jacquelyn Nooney Landscape INC
483 Harold L. Dow Hwy
Eliot ME 03903
207 439 6075
www.jnline.com