

HOW TO CREATE A SPRING PLANTER

Material Needed

- an outdoor urn or insert
- sand to weight the urn (optional)
- filler such as Styrofoam -to help reduce the amount of planting medium required
- planting soil
- an assortment of spring plants
- height material like dogwood or pussy willows (optional)
- garden gloves
- knife
- garden sheers

Notes on how to estimate the number of plants needed

- make a template of the inside space of your urn/planter
- 4- and 6-inch circles to represent spring plants

Arrange circles on the template of the inside space of your urn and you will have a visual of how many plants you will require.

Before you begin, think about where you are going to place your planter and ask yourself:

- Will it be top-heavy? Do you need to put weight into the bottom of the urn?
- Do you need drainage? If so, drill a few holes into your planter.
- Will it be seen from all sides or only from the front?
- How do you want to achieve height in your design?
- Have you planned for enough material to complete your design?
- Where will you plant your fading spring bulbs?

Steps to Completing your Planter

- You only need to plant spring plants a little deeper than the depth of the pot they have been growing in for this display, somewhere between seven and twelve inches.
- Stabilize your planter by weighting the bottom with sand or rocks if necessary.
- Use Styrofoam to fill space between the sand and planting medium.
- If your planter will be one sided, start at the back of your planter and move forward and to the edges with your plant material.
- It is important to keep the viewer's eye continuously moving throughout your design. Height can be achieved with pussy willows, dogwood and branches for spring arrangements. The height will be established by the way the design will be viewed. One sided, your height is centre back of container. If it is viewed from all around then

the centre is your height. The height can be just the height of your tallest plants if that is the look you want to achieve.

- The tallest plants at your height line, next is the second tallest on the next ring moving towards the edge.
- The next smaller size plant as you move to edge, with this theory spreading the width of your urn. Remember you can encourage the viewer's eye to connect to the container by having pansies or trailing vines cascading down the side(s) of the urn.
- Pack your spring container with plants. It is important to keep in mind that this is not a permanent planting but temporary, so you do not need to provide room for the plants to grow. With that said, you must allow room for each plant to be enjoyed by the viewer, allow the beauty of each plant to be seen.
- When the spring blooms start to fade, you can remove the whole plant from the urn display and place it in your garden(s). Some plants such as pansy or orinthogalum will do very nicely in a summer planter and should be incorporated into the next season's planter.
- Water your newly planted spring urn well. No need to water until you notice the plants need a drink. The weather is often damp and wet which will affect the moisture in your planter.
- If you plant your spring planter early in April, you will be taking it apart for distribution in your garden by the first or second week of May.

Enjoy!

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