



THRILLERS, FILLERS, & SPILLERS!

...CONTAINER GARDENING  
WITH A SIMPLE RECIPE

BLENDON   
GARDENS

# THRILLERS,

THESE ARE THE VERTICAL ELEMENTS THAT ADD HEIGHT AND DRAMA TO THE DESIGN OF YOUR CONTAINER. THIS IS USUALLY THE BOLDEST ITEM IN YOUR COMPOSITION. DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF TO JUST FLOWERS! TRY TROPICALS, HOUSEPLANTS, ORNAMENTAL GRASSES, AND TOPIARIES.

## SOME THRILLERS...

- BANANA TREE
- CORDYLINE
- LARGE COLEUS PLANT
- CANNA
- YUCCA GOLDEN SWORD
- RED PHORMIUM
- EGYPTIAN PAPYRUS
- TALL HERBS
- TOPIARY JUNIPER
- RED FOUNTAIN GRASS
- STROBILANTHES
- DWARF ALBERTA SPRUCE (STANDARD AND TOPIARY)
- GREEN MOUNTAIN BOXWOOD
- ELEPHANT EARS
- PERILLA

# FILLERS,

TYPICALLY THE FILLERS DO JUST THAT! THEY FILL IN THE SPACE AROUND THE THRILLER. YOUR THRILLER MAY BE TALL AND LEGGY—AND YOU MAY NEED SOMETHING TO TAKE AWAY SOME HEIGHT. FILLERS ADD MASS!

## SOME FILLERS...

- COLEUS
- HERBS (MEDIUM SIZED)
- DWARF DAHLIA
- LANTANA
- BEGONIA
- HOSTA
- MARGUERITE DAISY
- VICTORIA BLUE SALVIA
- IMPATIENS
- CALADIUM
- GERANIUM
- MARIGOLDS
- DUSTY MILLER
- UPRIGHT VERBENA
- ORNAMENTAL CABBAGE
- PROFUSION SERIES ZINNIAS
- JAPANESE BLOODGRASS
- MEDIUM SIZED SNAPDRAGONS
- DIAMOND FROST EUPHORBIA
- HEUCHERA (ASST. COLORS)

# SPILLERS !

WHAT ARE SPILLERS??? SIMPLE...THEY SPILL OVER THE EDGES OF THE POT. THEY ADD SOFTNESS AND ANCHOR THE POT VISUALLY TO THE GROUND.

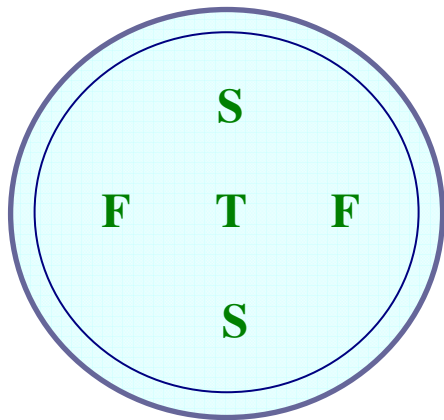
## SOME SPILLERS...

- LICORICE PLANT
- TRAILING VERBENA
- ENGLISH IVY
- FIBER OPTIC GRASS
- CALIBRACHOA MILLION BELLS (SMALL TRAILING PETUNIA TYPES)
- CREEPING JENNY
- BACOPA
- ASPARAGUS FERN
- PORTULACA
- WAVE PETUNIAS
- SWEET POTATOE VINE
- DICHONDRA SILVER FALLS
- TRAILING TYPE HERBS

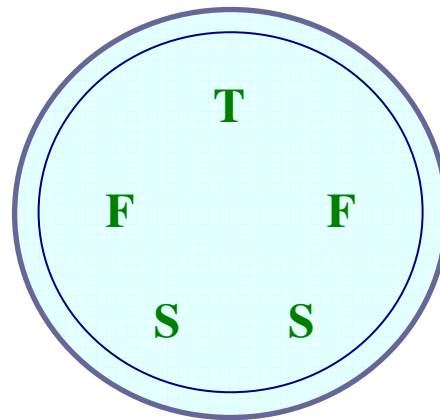
## THE BASICS...

**EXPOSURE** - DETERMINE IF YOU ARE SUN, SHADE, OR "PART" SHADE.

**ORIENTATION** - DETERMINE IF THE COMPOSITION IS SEEN FROM ALL ANGLES/VIEWS, OR JUST ORIENTED FROM THE FRONT.



**ALL VIEWS**



**FRONT VIEW**

## IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTRAST!

**COLORS** - LEAVES, NOT JUST FLOWERS HAVE COLOR!

*MONOCHROMATIC* IS THE USE OF ONE COLOR AND SHADES OF THAT COLOR.

*CONTRAST* IS THE USE OF OPPOSITE COLORS LIKE YELLOW VERSUS BLUE.

*HARMONIC* (AKA ANALAGOUS) IS THE USE OF CLOSELY LINKED COLORS. FOR EXAMPLE USING ORANGE MOVING TO RED OR YELLOW MOVING TO ORANGE.

*COLOR ECHO* IS TAKING A COLOR FROM A MULTICOLORED LEAF OR FLOWER AND ADDING THIS COLOR TO THE COMPOSITION.

**SHAPES AND SIZES** - ROUNDED, JAGGED, FINE, LACY...CONTRASTING BOTH SIZES AND SHAPES MAKES IT INTERESTING. FOR EXAMPLE, A BOLD, ROUNDED LEAF WITH A FINE LACY TEXTURE... USE ELEPHANT EARS AND LANTANA.

**TEXTURES** - FUZZY, GLOSSY, MATTE...KEEP CONTRASTING!

FOR EXAMPLE, USE A LICORICE PLANT (FUZZY) NEXT TO DRAGON WING BEGONIA (SHINY).

## POT IT!

**TERRA COTTA** -TRADITIONAL BUT DRIES OUT THE QUICKEST

**METAL** -OFTEN CONTEMPORARY BUT MAY INCREASE UNWANTED HEAT ON THE PLANTS

**CERAMIC/GLASS** -CAN BE TRADITIONAL OR CONTEMPORARY, CAN BECOME VERY HEAVY ONCE SOIL IS ADDED (MAY NOT BE WEATHERPROOF)

**PLASTIC/RESIN** -CAN BE BOTH TRADITIONAL OR CONTEMPORARY, LIGHTWEIGHT, VERSATILE, ECONOMICAL AND LESS WATER EVAPORATION (MOST POPULAR)

THE LARGER THE POT ALLOWS MORE ROOM FOR YOUR PLANT'S ROOT SYSTEM. THEY CAN ACHIEVE THEIR MAXIMUM GROWTH POTENTIAL.

*TIP: TALL CONTEMPORARY CONTAINERS REQUIRE TOO MUCH SOIL AND CAN BECOME TOO HEAVY. REPLACE SOME OF THE VOLUME WITH REPURPOSED STYROFOAM PACKING PEANUTS—IT ALSO HELPS WITH DRAINAGE!*

## GET THE DIRT...

PURCHASE A GOOD POTTING SOIL MIX. YOU WANT ONE WITH AMPLE NUTRIENTS AND DECENT DRAINAGE.

MAKE YOUR OWN BLEND?      1 PART PEAT MOSS  
                                         1 PART PERLITE  
                                         1 PART COMPOST  
                                         1 PART GARDEN SOIL

## FERTILIZING

ADD A SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER TO YOUR SOIL, SUCH AS SCOTT'S OSMOCOTE. SINCE THIS HAS A SLOW RELEASE, YOU MAY WANT TO JUMP START IT WITH A QUICKER RELEASE LIKE SCOTT'S LIQUID FEED FERTILIZER. WITH A HANDY AND EASY TO USE DISPENSER, IT COMES WITH A PRE-MIXED FERTILIZER THAT ATTACHES TO YOUR GARDEN HOSE.

**ORGANIC FERTILIZATION** -FISH EMULSION (MIX WITH WATER) IS THE BEST FOR FOLIAR GROWTH. THERE ARE MANY ORGANIC PRODUCTS AVAILABLE THROUGH RETAILERS, SUCH AS WHITNEY FARMS.

## READY, SET, DESIGN!

DON'T SWEAT THIS! REMEMBER THE SIMPLE RECIPE T.F.S.

DIG PLANTING HOLES IN YOUR WONDERFUL SOIL. GET THE THRILLERS, FILLERS, AND SPILLERS. PLACE PLANTS IN THE HOLES, COVERING THE TOP/SIDES AND THEN FIRM THE SOIL.

## TOP IT OFF!

YOU'RE NOT QUITE DONE! HAVE YOU EVER WATERED YOUR POTS TO FIND THAT ALL OF THE SOIL SPILLS OUT OVER THE EDGES? ADD SOME MULCH, PEBBLES, GRAVEL, OR MOSS TO KEEP THIS FROM HAPPENING.

## PERSONALIZE IT

ADD SOMETHING FUN THAT REFLECTS YOUR INTERESTS... A DECORATIVE ITEM, SUCH AS A METAL STAKE WITH A SYMBOL OR MOTIF.

# I'M STILL NOT FINISHED...??!

ALMOST ... BUT DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE CARE!

## WATERING

HOW OFTEN? MOST LIKELY ONCE A DAY. MORNINGS ARE BEST TO ALLOW THE FOLIAGE TO DRY BEFORE EVENING. THIS HELPS PREVENT FUNGAL DISEASES. GET UNDER THE MULCH AND FEEL THE SOIL ...IS IT DAMP? NO NEED TO WATER AT THIS TIME.

## MORE FERTILIZER?

SURE ... AMP IT UP ! IF USING A LOW CONCENTRATED FERTILIZER LIKE SCOTT'S LIQUID FEED, EVERY THREE WEEKS SHOULD BE GOOD. NOT ENTIRELY NECESSARY IF YOU USED A SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER.

## DEADHEADING

OF COURSE YOU CAN LISTEN TO JERRY AND THE GANG WHILE YOU DO THIS! DON'T DREAD IT, THINK OF IT AS THERAPY. IT'S THE REMOVAL OF DEAD FLOWERS AND LEAVES. IT HELPS REFRESH THE PLANT ...TO KEEP IT IN SHAPE ...YOU WILL BE REWARDED WITH MORE FLOWERS!

REMEMBER THE SIMPLE RECIPE T.F.S

THRILLERS, FILLERS, & SPILLERS !

BLENDON   
GARDENS

[www.blendongardens.com](http://www.blendongardens.com)