

Fall Decorating for your Yard

by [Claire Watson](#) on September 28, 2012

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Did you know that Halloween is the second-most-popular holiday for home decoration, second only to Christmas?

When you start to pull out the seasonal decorations for your home and yard this fall, think of adding versatile plants to the mix. Flowers like mums and pansies, or ornamental vegetables like kale and cabbage, provide fun, bright and creative ways to decorate for fall.

Paired with pumpkins and gourds grown in the garden, rustic corn stalks and hay bales fresh from the farmers market, or your favorite spooky Halloween décor, adding plants makes for a fun look for an outdoor space. After all, the autumn season is all about having fun and creating something unique.

This Halloween, make containers for the front porch to impress the neighbors who are making their trick or treat rounds. Bold colors like reds and yellows, or cool tones like purples and blues will provide fresh accents for your yard throughout the fall.

One of my favorites is the pumpkin planter. Nothing announces the arrival of fall more than pumpkins.



Here's how you can make this rustic planter at home:

1. When visiting the pumpkin patch with your kids or grandkids, grab a medium- or large-size pumpkin. Choose a pumpkin with a sturdy base to create a stable container that will dress up the front stoop.
2. Cut a hole in the top wide enough to snugly insert a plant pot — about 6 inches in diameter.
3. Scoop out the pumpkin seeds and pulp for a smooth surface, just as you would a jack-o-lantern. (You can roast the seeds, too, for a tasty snack!)
4. Take a 6-inch round pot of pansies (your choice on color preference) and place it inside the carved hole. If the pumpkin is large, use filler for the inside, such as empty plastic bottles, or plastic foam packing. The container lip should just clear the top of the pumpkin.

If you have space for hanging baskets, you can also make a spooky ghost container to greet trick-or-treaters this year. Select a lush basket of white spreading and trailing pansies from the local gardening center. Add sunglasses or spooky eyes to the hanging container to create a ghoulish ghost, and hang on your front patio. The pansies will spill over the sides of the container, giving the impression of a ghost on the run when the breeze blows.

Theme gardens with the colors of your favorite football team for when your friends come to watch the big game, or pose your kids around containers planted with their high school colors for Homecoming photos. The possibilities are endless!



What color schemes or autumn décor are you planning on using in your yard this year?