

NEW LIFE FOR OLD JUNK

Turn castoffs into clever containers for the garden

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Are you a scavenger? If you are, maybe you'll be lucky enough to find a Radio Flyer stuffed into a city trash bin, as we did. It was old, rusty and could barely move. We grabbed it.

If not, you may want to hold on to some of your junk for your garden paths, patios and porches.

With the help of a garden center, the red wagon was transformed into a lavish garden centerpiece filled with annuals, perennials and herbs.

You can personalize your garden with old junky items scavenged from basements, garage sales and flea markets. See what a little fresh paint, new blooms and even strawberries did to these old items.

Wooden chair

Designer/garden center: Wendy Doan, garden stylist at For the Garden, St. Louis, Mo.

1. Cut center out of chair seat so pot can rest on the frame.
2. Spray paint chair and pot.
3. Plant large pot (we used a 12-inch clay pot plus smaller potted plants for the ladder part of the chair) filled with yellow sweet potato vine, red verbena, Tango Neon purple geranium, Calibrachoa Dreamsickle, Su-pertunia Royal Velvet and premium potting soil

Price: \$55 for soil, flowers and spray paint

Metal strainers

Designer/garden center: Pam Naugle, assistant general manager at Hartke Nursery in St. Louis.

1. Line large and small strainers with plastic grocery bags so that the soil doesn't wash out of the holes.
2. Fill strainers with soil
3. Place an upside-down 5-inch clay pot into the back of the large strainer. Push it down until it is level with the rim of the strainer.
4. Place the small strainer on the

upside-down pot and the back rim of the large strainer. (Naugle used a littlepole pushed through the strainer, through the pot and into the soil below to stabilize the top strainer).

5. Plant the smaller strainer with Dianthus Strawberry Parfait and Allysium Snow Crystals.

6. Plant the larger strainer with strawberry plants. (Naugle used the everbearing variety).

Price: About \$25 for flowers, strawberries and soil

Metal watering can

Designer/garden center: Diane White, owner of White's Greenhouses, Godfrey, Mo.

1. Fill the bottom one-third of the can with plastic crumpled containers to improve drainage.
2. Fill the rest of the can with potting soil.
3. For height, plant a white caladium. For fullness, plant a dragon wing begonia and Torenia Blue Wave.
4. To soften the look, plant asparagus fern to drape over the edge.
5. After planting, spread a slow-release fertilizer and then cover the soil with sphagnum moss for a finished look.

Price: \$25 for soil, flowers, plants and fertilizer

Man's boot

Designer/garden center: Leslie Sortino, sales associate at Bowood Farms, St. Louis

1. Remove the steel toe and shoe tongue.
2. Drill holes through the sole near the ball of the foot and drill one hole in the inside arch through the leather
3. Plant the small toe hole with spicy mix micro-greens such as cabbage Red Ace, mustard Sawtooth and radish China Rose. Wrap the tops of the greens in a

rolled newspaper to prevent them from becoming damaged in the process of threading them through the boot and then into the small hole.

4. Line the back of the shoe and the tongue area with a scrap of coir liner. This liner is typically found in hanging baskets. Add potting mix and time-release fertilizer.

5. Plant the boot with Lavandula stoechas Blueberry Ruffles, pansy Fizzy Lemonberry and Nemesia Violet Ice.

6. Arrange the shoe's strings. Water thoroughly.

Price: \$10 to \$15 for flowers, fertilizer, potting mix and coir liner

Radio Flyer wagon

Designer/garden center: Maria Mitchell, sales associate at Sugar Creek Gardens, St. Louis

1. Drill holes in the wagon for drainage. Line with pebbles for additional drainage.
2. Fill wagon half to three-quarters full with Miracle-Gro potting mix containing Osmocote.
3. Select plants such as miniature conifers, pathway plants, herbs and small flowering perennials and annuals. Add fragrant flowers for bees and butterflies. Plants used: Dwarf Alberta spruce, Common Juniper, Paul's dwarf mugo pine, Digitalis Goldcrest, English daisy, Sedum yunnanense, sweet Alyssum, Scotch moss, Ajuga



Chocolate Chip and Herniaria Sea Foam.

4. Add accessories to create a fairy woodland garden, including a miniature cottage with a fence

and gate, stones to terrace and create paths and colored glass to create a stream. Other items used: a miniature garden bench, chair, wheelbarrow, flower pot, beehive, birdhouse, birdbath,

miniature bees, butterflies, ladybugs, birds, raccoon, a cat and, of course, fairies.

Price: \$75 to \$100 includes soil, flowers, fairies and accessories



An old wooden chair makes a statement with new paint.



Photos by JOHN L. WHITE/McClatchy-Tribune

An old metal watering can, a metal strainer and an old shoe provide the whimsical setting for colorful flower and plant combinations.



Your imagination can run wild when creating a fairy garden with miniature accessories, stones and colored glass in a Radio Flyer wagon.