

3 WINNING CONTAINERS

GET TO KNOW THESE PLANTS BETTER

One of the best ways to learn more about new plants is by growing them in containers. We've put together three designs with some of the plants we've talked about — and more.

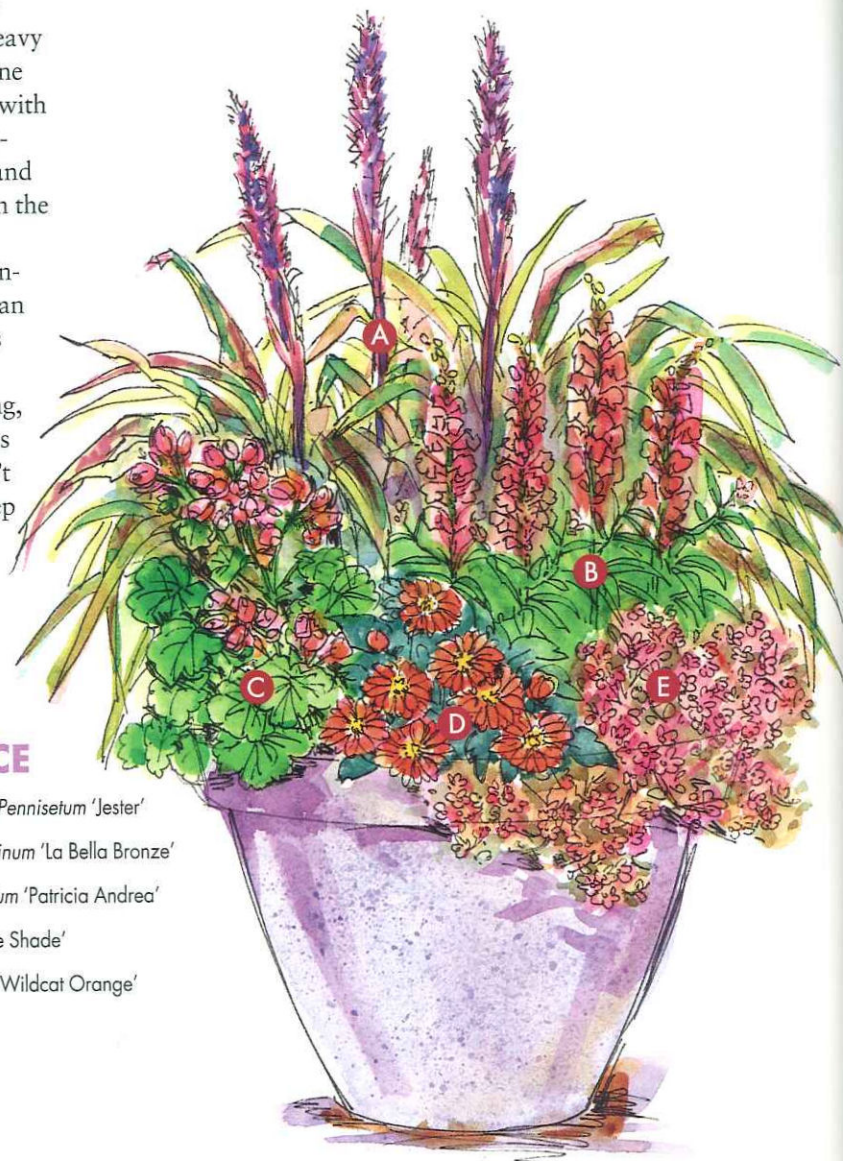
CHEERFUL EXUBERANCE To balance out the height of the millet in this full-sun container, graduate the heights of the plants around it. You'll also need a heavy container that won't tip easily. And one that's 2½ feet tall or more looks best with the height. Snaps, geraniums and anagallis carry the color through spring and summer, while the dahlias peak late in the season.

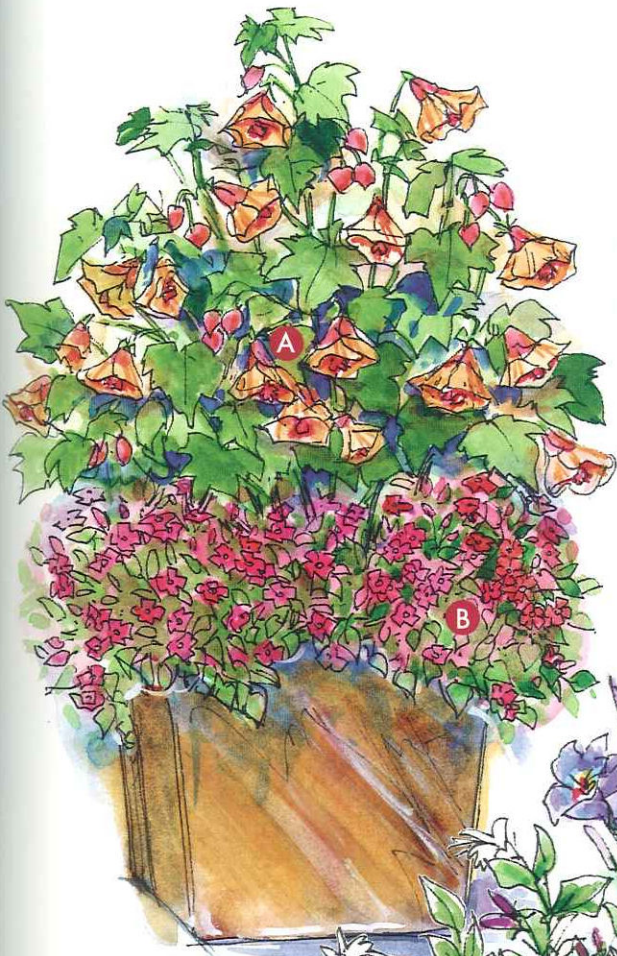
SIMPLY ELEGANT This part-shade container is great on a patio where you can enjoy the warm, rich colors. As far as maintenance, there's not much to do because the impatiens are self-cleaning, meaning they drop their spent flowers without deadheading. Plus, you won't have to pinch this variety back to keep it compact, and it covers the bare legs of the flowering maple nicely.

COOL COMBO For the most flowers, grow this container in full sun. Another tip for lots of blooms: As soon as the flowers start, fertilize every time you water at a quarter the recommended concentration. Keep the pot style simple so it doesn't detract from the airy look and nice plant combinations. □

CHEERFUL EXUBERANCE

- A** Ornamental millet *Pennisetum 'Jester'*
- B** Snapdragon *Antirrhinum 'La Bella Bronze'*
- C** Geranium *Pelargonium 'Patricia Andrea'*
- D** Dahlia *Dahlia 'Bronze Shade'*
- E** Anagallis *Anagallis 'Wildcat Orange'*





SIMPLY ELEGANT

- A Flowering maple**
Abutilon 'Linda Vista Peach'
- B Mini impatiens**
Impatiens walleriana 'Little Lizzy Rose'

easy WATERING

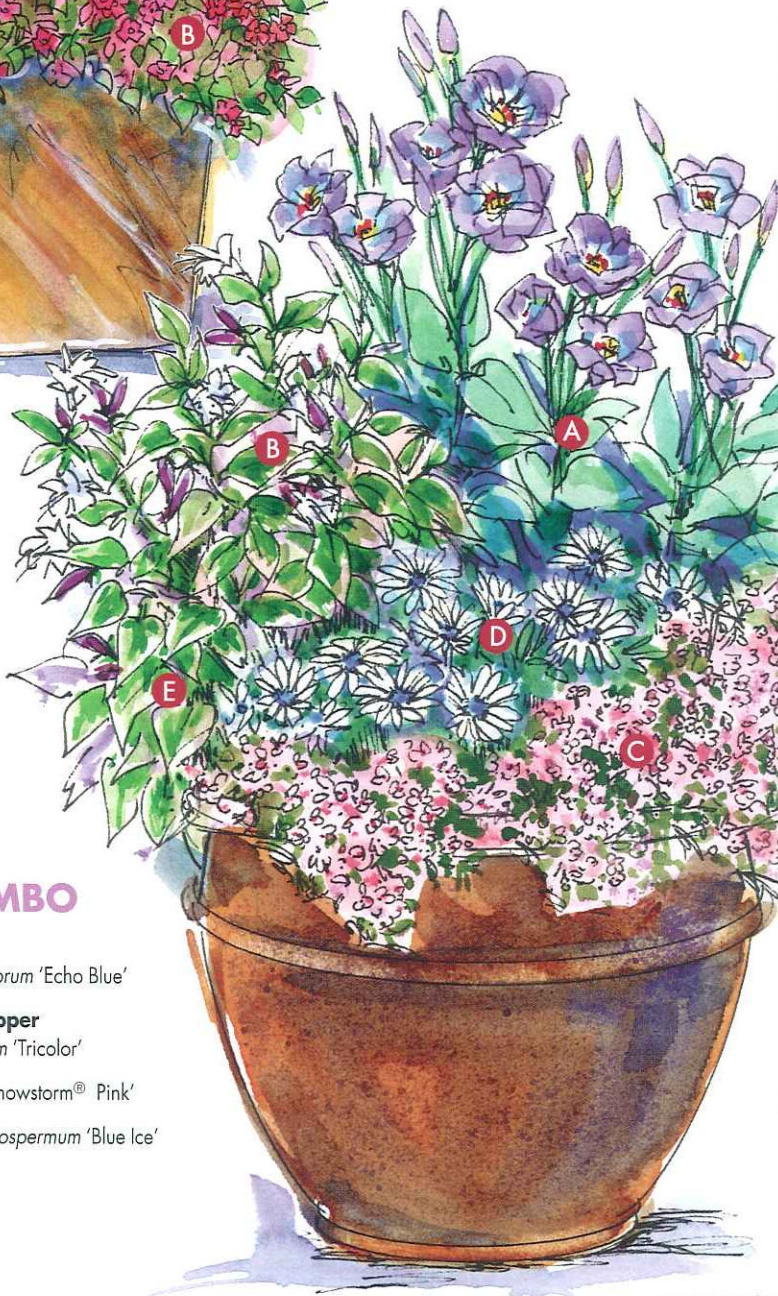
When summer turns hot, your containers may need watering every day. Small ones may even need water a couple of times a day. If you don't have a drip irrigation system, here are simple ways to make watering containers easier and less stressful for both you and your plants.

CHOOSE SELF-WATERERS A self-watering container has a reservoir that you fill with water. It's usually under the pot so the roots can draw moisture up into the soil as plants need it.

USE A WAND If you have several pots, watering with a hose is faster and easier than filling watering can after watering can. But some nozzles have a strong stream that can wash the soil out of the pot. Look for a wand that has a nozzle or breaker that allows you to control the flow.

MIX IN CRYSTALS Water-absorbing polymers soak up water and hold it. Then they release the moisture into the soil for plants to use as they need it. You can purchase potting mix with crystals already blended in. Or you can buy the crystals separately and add them in yourself.

WORK WITH WICKING If you're going to be away for a long time, here's a simple thing to try: Fill a plastic milk jug with water. Put one end of a piece of cotton rope in the water. Then bury the other end in your container's soil. The rope will wick the water from the jug to the soil. This works great for small pots. For a large one, you may need several jugs with wicks.



COOL COMBO

- A Lisianthus**
Eustoma grandiflorum 'Echo Blue'
- B Ornamental pepper**
Capsicum annuum 'Tricolor'
- C Bacopa** *Sutera 'Snowstorm'® Pink'*
- D Cape daisy** *Osteospermum 'Blue Ice'*