

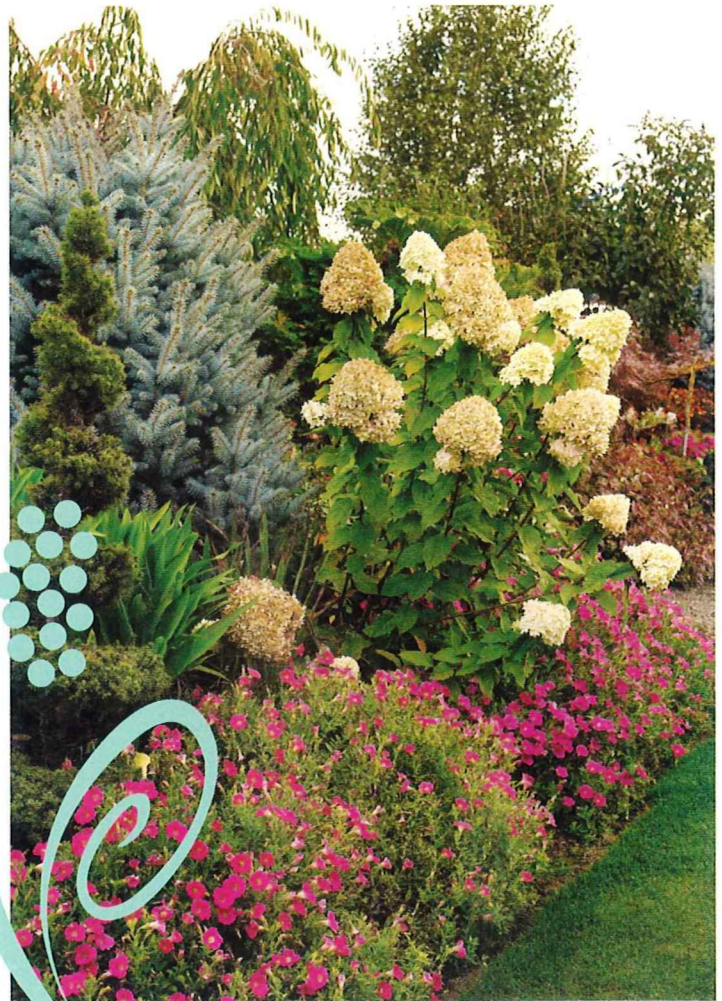
# a garden Border

**SCALED-DOWN BORDER** A beautiful garden is the most obvious inspiration for any gardener! The only problem is that when you see a lovely border, you might not have the time, the space or the cash to recreate it in your own yard. Besides, your garden is already pretty — why not try this new look in a container instead of doing a whole-garden overhaul? (You can always incorporate the plants from the container into a permanent planting later, to keep the inspiration going!)

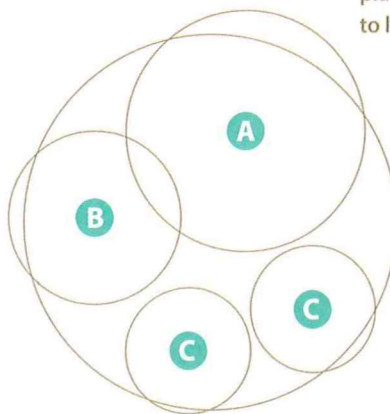
With this approach to creating a container, the first thing you need to do is analyze what you like about the inspiration garden. It could be a specific plant, a texture, a color combination or all three. Here, we loved those big puffballs of hydrangeas, the sweep of pink along the bottom and the color and texture of the blue spruce in the background. So that's where we started.

The hydrangea was easy. We chose 'Limelight' hydrangea — it'll need to go in the ground at the end of the summer because it gets quite large, but a small one looked just right for our needs. And speaking of small, that dwarf blue spruce is perfect for a container — exactly the same color and texture as the one in the photo, but tiny. And dwarf evergreens grow very slowly, so you can reuse it in containers for years if you want to. Although the inspiration photo has a sweep of pink petunias, we liked the more upright shape of the New Guinea impatiens we picked. That way, we can see the soft blue-gray of the container, which offers a contrast in texture, but picks up the same color as the spruce. Backed up against an existing weeping Norway spruce, this container really is a mini version of the beautiful garden that inspired it!

Once put together, these plants are easy to care for. They'll be happy in part sun as long as you keep them watered consistently. Eventually the hydrangea blooms will fade to a warm tan, but you could get double-duty out of this container by popping out the New Guinea impatiens and swapping in some bold-colored mums for fall!



A container is a great place to test plant combinations before you commit to large-scale changes in your garden!



**PLANT LIST (number to plant)**

- ★ **A** Hydrangea *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' (1)
- ★ **B** Dwarf blue spruce *Picea pungens* 'Globosa' (1)
- ★ **C** New Guinea impatiens *Impatiens* 'Celebration Rose Star' (2)



Container is 20 in. in diameter



Buy a hydrangea that's the right size for your container from the beginning as it won't grow much in a season.

Look for dwarf varieties of plants, such as this spruce. They're the perfect fit without any extra pruning.