



CONTAINER GARDEN PLANT GUIDE

Thrillers • Fillers • Spillers

The right plants in the right places make beautiful containers all season long!



THRILLERS

Add height & a focal point

Tall plants that create drama and draw the eye.
Place in the center or toward the back.



Dwarf Sunflower

18 – 30" tall
Full sun
Blooms all summer
Great for pollinators



Cosmos

18 – 30" tall
Full sun
Easy to grow
Attracts butterflies



Zinnia

24 – 36" tall
Full sun
Long bloom season
Attracts pollinators



Salvia

18 – 30" tall
Full sun
Attracts hummingbirds
Heat tolerant



Ornamental Grass

Varies
Full sun / Part sun
Adds height, texture
Year-round interest



FILLERS

Create fullness around the thriller

Medium-height plants that fill in spaces and
make the container look lush and complete.



Calendula

12 – 18" tall
Full sun
Long bloom season
Edible flowers



Lavender

18 – 24" tall
Full sun
Fragrant
Deer resistant



Dwarf Zinnias

10 – 15" tall
Full sun
Bright, long-lasting
Easy to grow



Angelonia

12 – 18" tall
Full sun
Heat tolerant
Continuous bloom



Pentas

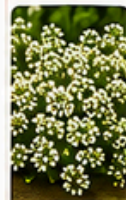
12 – 18" tall
Full sun
Butterfly magnet
Great in heat



SPILLERS

Cascade over the edge

Trailing or mounding plants that soften the edges
and spill beautifully over the sides.



Sweet Alyssum

6 – 10" tall
12 – 18" spread
Full sun / Part sun
Fragrant & attracts pollinators



Calibrachoa

6 – 10" tall
12 – 24" spread
Full sun
Blooms all season



Nasturtium

6 – 12" tall
12 – 24" spread
Full sun / Part sun
Edible & easy to grow



Creeping Jenny

2 – 4" tall
18 – 24" spread
Sun / Part shade
Bright chartreuse foliage



Trailing Verbena

6 – 10" tall
12 – 24" spread
Full sun
Heat & drought tolerant



NORTHWEST INDIANA NATIVE OPTIONS

Beautiful native plants that support pollinators
and thrive in our region.



Coreopsis
12 – 24" tall



Bergamot (Bee Balm)
18 – 36" tall



Purple Coneflower
24 – 36" tall



Black-eyed Susan
24 – 36" tall



New England Aster
18 – 24" tall

THE DESIGN FORMULA



THRILLER
(Height)

+



FILLERS
(Fullness)

+



SPILLERS
(Cascade)

Adjust the number of plants to fit the size of your container.

TIP: Use odd numbers of plants for the most natural look.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ Use quality potting mix designed for containers.
- ✓ Water containers regularly – they dry out faster than garden beds.
- ✓ Fertilize throughout the season for best performance.
- ✓ Remove spent blooms to encourage more flowers.
- ✓ Design for sun or shade based on where your container will be placed.

Explore more
container gardening
resources on our
website!

