

Keep It Contained

I grew up in a rural area surrounded by fields of crops and livestock. Our house sat on a portion of a one acre lot and the smallest yard in our community was one-half acre. We had plenty of room to grow ornamental plants, fruit trees and to have a very large garden. Today's home lots are much smaller than in the "good old days". Many live in apartments or condos with seemingly nowhere to do any gardening. However, there still is ample opportunity to satisfy that urge to nurture something as it grows.

Plants are so adaptive that even in the smallest of patio spaces or on a narrow window ledge above your sink, you can grow something. Pots and containers come in any size, shape or style and are perfect for growing herbs, vegetables, flowers, shrubs and even fruit trees. I've seen plants grown in a piece of wood, an unusually shaped clay pot fashioned by a first grader, a hollow rock, a plastic cup, an old tin can and even an old boot. If it will hold soil, it can be a container for a plant. Your imagination and your personality can really go wild when selecting the perfect pot.



When planting a pot for ornamental purposes, pack the plants in the container. Rootball to rootball is perfectly fine and will give a very full and lush look to your arrangement. Arrange the plants just as you would a landscape. Make sure that there is layering of short plants in front and tall plants in back. Use plants that have a complimenting variety of color, texture, form and size. Having a theme can help in selecting the right plants to go with your container. For instance, when planting vegetables, mix in some herbs you would usually use when cooking.

Container gardening is fun and rewarding. Don't be shy, try new combinations. You will enjoy it.

"When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt." - Henry J. Kaiser

FAVORITE FLORA:

MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS 'REGAL MIST'- REGAL MIST



Are you looking to recreate a prairie feel in your landscape or maybe just need to contrast architectural cacti and succulents? Regal Mist (*Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Regal Mist') might be the plant you are looking for. Not to be confused with Gulf Coast Muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), which can be found throughout the gulf states, Regal Mist is a variety created by Ron Gass of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery. This ornamental grass grows to 3'x3' with flower stalks adding another foot in late summer and fall. These flower stalks are a dusty pink color that can add a lot of interest and color to a landscape. Regal Mist is best planted in partial to full sun and is drought tolerant. If leaves begin to brown in the summer, increase irrigation. While being drought tolerant, this grass can tolerate overwatering and flood irrigation. To keep this grass looking its best, prune to the ground in late winter or early spring

before new growth starts to appear.

While *Muhlenbergia capillaris* can be planted as an accent, it looks best in groups if space permits. Orient the planting so that light will come from behind the grass. The backlighting will create an awesome pink glow as the sun passes through the blooms. Regal Mist can be planted with other ornamental grasses and perennials such as Autumn Glow (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* 'Autumn Glow'), Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) and Guara (*Guara lindheimeri*) to create a wonderful landscape that will change throughout the seasons.

Photo of the Month



Working Wasps
Somewhere in the Nevada Desert
Victor Trujillo