# Thrillers, Fillers & Spillers

## Thrillers
- Abutilon
- Angelonia
- Cannas
- Celosia
- Dracaena
- Erysimum
- Gaura Pink Fountain
- Geraniums
- Grasses
- Lantana
- Nicotiana
- Papyrus
- Pentas
- Plumbago
- Purple Fountain Grass
- Sun Coleus
- Umbrella Plant
- Caladium
- Coleus
- Cordyline
- Dracaena
- Fuchsia
- Graptophyllum
- Impatiens
- New Guinea Impatiens

## Fillers
- Ageratum
- Alternanthera
- Angelonia
- Copperleaf
- Cosmos
- Cuphea
- Dusty Miller
- Eucalyptus
- Gazania
- Geraniums
- Gerbera Daisy
- Gomphrena
- Helichrysum Icicles
- Joseph’s Coat
- Magilla Perilla
- Melampodium
- Nemesia
- Nierembergia
- Osteospermum
- Pentas
- Petunia
- Plumbago
- Salvia
- Sun Coleus
- Vinca
- Zinnia
- Bacopa
- Begonias
- Boston Fern
- Browallia
- Caladium
- Coleus
- Diacia
- Dragonwing Begonia
- Dusty Miller
- Heliotrope
- Hypoestes
- Impatiens
- Iresine
- Nemesia
- New Guinea Impatiens
- Oxalis
- Pansy
- Rex Begonias
- Salvia
- Torenia

## Spillers
- Asparagus Fern
- Bacopa
- Brachycome
- Calibrachoa
- Chenile
- Diascia
- Evovulus
- Fiber Optic Grass
- Helichrysum
- Ivy Geranium
- Lantana
- Lotus
- Lysimachia
- Nirembergia
- Plectranthus
- Portulaca
- Purple Heart
- Scaevola
- Solanum
- Supercascade Petunia
- Sweet Potato Vine
- Thyme, Doone Valley
- Trailing Petunia
- Trailing Vinca
- Variegated Bskt Grass
- Verbena
- Vinca Minor
- Asparagus Fern
- Bolivian Jew
- Creeping Wire Vine
- Diachondra Silver Falls
- Dragonwing Begonia
- Helichrysum Licorice Vine
- Ivy Geranium
- Ivy, Variegated & Green
- Lamium Beacon Silver
- Lobelia
- Purple Heart
- Tahitian Bridal Veil
- Wave Torenia
- Vinca Vine
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A Simple Recipe For Eye-Catching Container Gardens

There is no mystery in making a spectacular container planting, as long as a simple three-ingredient recipe is followed.

**Thrillers:** First and foremost, a centerpiece plant with star quality, something big, bold and beautiful

**Fillers:** Foliage or flowering plants to complement but not overwhelm the main player

**Spillers:** A ‘splash of mischief’ that just tumbles out of the pot, softening the edges, echoes or contrasts the other plants

As long as these three types of plants are used in various proportions, taking care to balance colors and textures, you can create a container with breathtaking results!

**Thrillers Are The Star:** As the name implies, thrillers are the big attention getters. They are usually tall, upright plants, with outstanding qualities such as: colorful foliage, intriguing shape, or dramatic flowers that last all season. Many thrillers are architectural plants with structural or eye-catching qualities that can serve as a rugged framework for the entire arrangement. Thrillers work best in a composition where they are the tallest plants. At planting time, the thriller goes in the center of a pot that will be viewed from all sides or at the back of a pot that will be displayed in a corner or against a wall.

**Fillers Add Mass:** Fillers are billowy, more finely-textured plants that surround and weave through the thriller. Fillers add mass to the overall composition and establish a dialogue with the thriller. Fillers serve as a textural contrast or colorful counterpoint. As the name implies, fillers fill up the pot while embracing the thriller. Use a mix of plants for the job of filler. Use some with foliage interest and others with flowers. Since the goal of the container planting is to attract the eye, these plants should add an alluring, unusual flavor to the composition.

**Spillers Anchor The Pot:** The main role of a spiller is to sprawl over the side of the container, softening its edges and tumbling toward the ground. When parts of a container planting touches the ground, the pot visually looks rooted or grounded to its location. Well chosen spillers continue the dialogue begun by the thriller and fillers. Choose spillers to echo or contrast with the other plants in the composition by either virtue of shape, color or texture.

**Keep Scale In Mind:** Planting the right combination of thrillers, fillers, and spillers creates a lush, intriguing composition rich in color, texture, and form. Be sure to consider the element of scale when selecting plants for your container. Try to group plants using fillers that are roughly between one-third and two-thirds the size of the thriller. Also aim for extreme contrasts in terms of color combination, texture, and shape. No matter what the specifics, using a thriller, filler and a spiller is a sure recipe for success.