

Thriller, Filler, and Spiller

Utilizing the thriller, filler, and spiller concept will help you to create well-balanced and full upright patio containers.

Thrillers

are plants that add height and create drama and vertical elements to the container combinations. They are the centerpiece plantings. Thrillers can either be flowering or foliage plants. Examples of thrillers are spikes, canna lilies, caladiums, or tall ornamental grasses. Thrillers are generally put either in the center or at the back of containers. If the containers will be viewed from all sides, place them in the center. If they will be viewed from one side, place the thrillers in the back of the pots.

Sun	Shade
Cannas, Celosia, Dracaena, Geraniums, Grasses, Lantana, Nicotiana, Paprus, Pentas, Purple Fountain Grass, Sun Coleus	Caladium, Coleus, Cordyline, Dracaena, Fuchsia, Impatiens, New Guinea Impatiens

Fillers

are rounded plants. These plants fill in the middles of the combinations and their job is to make the planters look full. More than one filler may be used. Some plants that make great fillers are lantana, nemesia, diascia, and coleus. Place the fillers in front of or around the thrillers, depending on the placement of your thrillers.

Sun	Shade
Ageratum, alternanthera, Cosmos, Dusty Miller, Gazania, Geraniums, Gerbera Daisy, Gomphrena, Nemesia, Pentas, Petunia, Salvia, Sun Coleus, Vinca, Zinnia	Begonias, Boston Fern, Browallia, Caladium, Coleus, Dragonwing Begonia, Dusty Miller, Heliotrope, Impatiens, Nemesia, New Guinea Impatiens, Oxalis, Pansy, Rex Begonias, Salvia

Spillers

are the last plants to add to the combination container. Spillers are trailing plants that hang over the edge of the planters. Some examples would be sweet potato vine, creeping jenny, or petunias that trail. Spillers are placed close to the edges of the pots. If the pots are going to be viewed from all sides, spillers should be placed on all sides.

Sun	Shade
Asparagus Fern, Calibrachoa, Diascia, Fiber Optic Grass, Ivy Geranium, Lantana, Lysimachia, Portulaca, Sweet Potato Vine, Trailing Petunia, Trailing Vinca, Verbena	Asparagus Fern, Diachondra Silver Falls, Dragonwind Begonia, Helichrysum Licorice Vine, Ivy, Lamium Beacon Silver, Lobelia, Tahitian Bridal Veil, Vinca Vine