

POTSCAPING PLEASURES

Embellish a city terrace, patio, entranceway or dining area with potted plants and the enjoyment can last the whole year. Think about colour, fragrance and texture when selecting your pots and planting material. What will the pot look like in the fall or the winter?

Time the amount of direct sunlight the potscaping area receives. Six or more hours of direct sunlight is considered full sun, four to six hours part sun and less than four hours plan for shade loving plants.

The trend for 2004 is to combine herbs, flowers and mini veggies (for example baby lettuce, grape tomatoes, chives) in pots with full sun. Many new varieties of miniature vegetables will be available to the urban gardener this year. Their visual appeal, scent and taste will lengthen your guest list on the patio.

There are numerous ideas for displaying plants, three of which I will outline.

1. The Specimen Plant (One architectural plant that stands alone)
2. The Pot Grouping (Multiple pots arranged together)
3. The One Container Planting (A number of plants in one Container)
- 4.

Think about climbing plants, hanging plants and multi-foliage plants to add dimension and colour to your garden. Disguising unattractive railings or walls can be easily accomplished with fast growing climbing vines: clematis, ivy, nasturtium or morning glory.

Numerous perennials and miniature shrubs can grow successfully on balconies, terraces, decks and rooftops. With the shortage of space in urban gardens, potscaping is a great idea for extending your outdoor space and providing interest year round.

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