

Types Planter Containers

Material	Pros	Cons
Terracotta / Ceramic	Breathable, decorative, promotes drainage	Fragile, heavy, cracks in freezing temps
Concrete	Durable, insulating, excellent for large plants	Heavy, expensive, prone to weathering
Wooden	Insulated, attractive, sustainable	Rot-prone, requires maintenance
Plastic	Lightweight, affordable, moisture-retentive	Less durable, lower visual appeal
Fiberglass	Lightweight, weather-resistant, modern look	Expensive, lower breathability
Metal	Durable, sleek design	Overheats roots, rust-prone
Resin	Affordable, durable, weather-resistant	Scratches/fades over time
Stone	Durable, weather-resistant and insulated, natural, timeless design.	Very heavy, expensive, prone to moisture build-up

Shapes of Planter Containers

Shape	Description
Round Planters	Round planters are versatile and promote even soil distribution, benefiting root growth. Suitable for both single plants and arrangements, they work well in traditional and modern gardens. Larger round planters are ideal for trees or large shrubs, while smaller ones suit flowers or herbs.
Rectangle or Square Planters	These planters offer structure and symmetry, great for creating defined borders or aligning plants in rows. Ideal for vegetables, herbs, or ornamental grasses, their varying depths should match plant growth needs. Deep square planters suit root vegetables, while shallow rectangular ones are perfect for leafy greens.
Tall and Tapered Planters	Tall and tapered planters bring elegance and verticality to spaces, ideal for entryways, corners, or pathways. Their narrow base suits shallow-rooted plants like ferns, succulents, or annual flowers. Care should be taken when selecting plants due to the restricted space at the base.
Bowl-Shaped Planters	These planters provide a wide surface area and shallow depth, well-suited for low-growing plants, succulents, and trailing plants. Their open design supports mixed arrangements and offers aesthetic flexibility for placement on tables, pedestals, or garden floors. Proper drainage is essential to prevent waterlogging due to the shallow depth.

**Tiered or
Stacked
Planters**

Tiered planters maximize planting space in small areas with vertically arranged layers. Perfect for patios, balconies, or urban gardens, they accommodate strawberries, herbs, or cascading flowers like petunias. Their modular design allows rearrangement and adaptation over time, making them versatile for changing plant needs.

Where to Place a Planter Container

Placement	Reasons Why and How
Patio or Deck	Patios and decks offer versatile spaces for planters, ideal for creating a relaxing retreat or entertaining area. Use various plants like flowers or herbs to add beauty and functionality. Ensure planters don't block movement.
Walkways	Align planters along walkways to add symmetry and definition. Durable containers with plants of moderate height, such as grasses or shrubs, guide guests while maintaining clear foot traffic and weather resistance.
Around Swimming Pools	Enhance the serene, luxurious ambiance with tropical plants like palms or ferns. Use water and chemical-resistant planters and avoid shedding plants to minimize pool upkeep.
Entranceways	Flank doorways with colorful flowers or shrubs for a welcoming touch. Symmetry works for formal styles, while asymmetry suits modern designs. Functional planters with water reservoirs are especially practical for busy households.
Gardens	Add height and structure to your garden with tall planters. Use them to showcase cascading flowers or adapt arrangements to light and seasonal changes in both vegetable and flower gardens.

Retaining Walls	Maximize space by using cascading plants like ivy or petunias along the edges, softening the structure's lines. Ensure walls can support planters' weight and secure them against falling.
Mailbox Area	Decorate around the mailbox with planters of low-maintenance plants like succulents or marigolds. Ensure visibility for postal workers and nearby vehicles isn't obstructed.
Driveways	Enhance curb appeal with sturdy planters featuring shrubs or perennials that define property edges. Choose weatherproof materials like polyresin to withstand exposure and nearby traffic.
Window Sills	Brighten window sills with lightweight containers of flowers or herbs suited for full sun. Ensure proper drainage to avoid window sill damage.
Rooftops	Transform rooftops into green escapes with lightweight, durable planters. Choose wind-resistant plants like lavender or boxwoods. Consult professionals about weight limits and install safety barriers if necessary.
Balconies	Use planters of varying heights to create privacy and greenery in intimate balcony spaces. Railing planters maximize space while addressing sunlight and water challenges unique to these microclimates.

Garden Seating Areas

Place planters of varied heights around seating areas to enhance relaxation and beauty. Fragrant plants like lavender or jasmine create a calming atmosphere while maintaining unobstructed views.

Other Unique Spots

Get creative with planters in unexpected locations like staircases, fence posts, or ledges. Hanging planters are excellent for saving space and adding visual interest to overlooked areas.

Floral and Foliage Arrangements for Sunny Areas

Theme	Description	Example Plants
Thriving Tropical Vibes	For those who want a lush, exotic appeal, tropical plants can add bold colors and dynamic shapes. These arrangements thrive best in well-draining soil with consistent watering to mimic their native environments.	Hibiscus, bird of paradise, canna lilies, elephant ears, caladiums, golden creeping Jenny.
Color Coordination	Achieving a harmonious look by focusing on specific color palettes. Warm tones use bold, sunny hues while cool tones feature serene, soothing shades. Complementing foliage ties the design together, with lighting and deadheading essential for vibrant blooms.	Yellow marigolds, orange zinnias, red geraniums, blue salvia, white petunias, violet pansies, dusty miller, coleus.
Classic Cottage Charm	Inspired by countryside gardens, these planters combine classic blossoms with textured greenery for a soft, romantic aesthetic. Perfect for patios, porches, or as accent pieces.	Lavender, daisies, roses, ivy, maidenhair fern, daffodils, alyssum.

Thriller-Filler-Spiller Concept	A balanced approach using tall "thriller" plants as focal points, surrounded by "filler" plants for fullness and trailing "spiller" varieties for a cascading effect. This design amps up visual appeal with height, texture, and color.	Purple fountain grass, red cordyline, lantanas, verbenas, sweet potato vine, trailing petunias.
Modern Minimalist Display	Focused on simplicity and clean lines, this design incorporates geometric planters and a limited color palette for a contemporary touch. Ideal for modern spaces, it maintains a sophisticated and streamlined appearance.	Succulents, blue fescue, white kalanchoe flowers, eucalyptus foliage.
Pollination-Friendly Paradise	Encourages support for local pollinators by planting nectar-rich plants that attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. These environmentally beneficial planters combine beauty with purpose, perfect for eco-conscious gardeners.	Black-eyed Susans, cosmos, zinnias, lavender, mint, milkweed, salvia.
Compact Flower Charm	Tailored for small spaces, these arrangements feature compact blooms and cascading greenery, which thrive in pots or window boxes. They bring vibrant color and charm without requiring much maintenance, ideal for urban gardening.	Dwarf marigolds, petunias, alyssum, succulents.

Texture Variety	Combines plants of varying textures to create depth and interest. Spiky and bold foliage pair with softer and feathery plants for dynamic arrangements that thrive in sunny conditions.	Yucca, lavender, lamb's ear, artemisia, coreopsis, hostas, coleus.
------------------------	---	--

Other Floral and Foliage Combinations for Sunny Areas

Flowers and Foliage	Description
Petunias, Sweet Potato Vine, Verbena	Cascading blooms with bold foliage to add vibrant color.
Marigolds, Dusty Miller, Creeping Jenny	Bright marigolds paired with contrasting silvery and trailing greenery.
Lantana, Salvia, Euphorbia	Tropical-inspired mix with bold colors and airy flowers.
Zinnias, Spikes (Dracaena), Ornamental Grasses	Playful combination offering height and texture with vivid blooms.
Geraniums, Licorice Plant, Calibrachoa	A lush blend featuring bold flowers, soft silvery foliage, and cascading color.

Recommended Plant Combinations for Partial Sun

Theme	Description	Example Plants
Thrillers, Fillers, and Spillers Combination	Utilize the "thriller, filler, spiller" technique for dynamic arrangements. Thrillers are tall, striking plants; fillers provide lush texture and bulk; spillers trail to soften edges and add movement.	Thrillers: Ornamental Millet, Salvia; Fillers: Heuchera, Wax Begonias; Spillers: Creeping Jenny, Sweet Potato Vine
Cool Tones	Create a soothing arrangement with calming shades of blue, white, and purple, providing an elegant and serene aesthetic.	Blue Lobelia, White Bacopa, Dusty Miller
Warm Tones	Add vibrant, bold energy to your garden by incorporating striking reds, oranges, and yellows for a lively display.	Marigolds, Calibrachoa, Red Coleus
Low-Maintenance	Focus on plants that are drought-tolerant and hardy for easy-care arrangements, perfect for partial-shade areas and limited upkeep.	Succulents (Echeveria, Sedum), Pansies, Coral Bells

Proportional Design	Ensure visually balanced arrangements by following the rule where the tallest plant's height is no more than 1.5 times the height of the container.	Not plant-specific (focus on proportion rule)
----------------------------	---	---

Arrangement Suggestions for Partial-Sunny Areas

Combination #	Flowers	Foliage	Trailing Plants
Recipe 1	Begonias	Caladiums	Sweet Potato Vine
Recipe 2	Salvia	Coleus	Creeping Jenny
Recipe 3	Impatiens	Ferns	Licorice Plant
Recipe 4	Petunias	Dusty Miller	Lobelia
Recipe 5	Snapdragons	Heuchera	Ivy

Floral and Foliage Arrangements for Partial Shade Planters

Theme	Description	Example Plants
Classic Elegance Arrangement	For a balanced and timeless look, combine flowers like impatiens or begonias with textured foliage such as ferns or hostas. Impatiens and begonias provide vibrant pops of red, pink, or white, while ferns contribute lush greenery and hostas soften the arrangement.	Impatiens, begonias, ferns, hostas
Bold and Brilliant Arrangement	Make your container stand out with bold, striking colors by pairing coleus with caladiums and heucheras. Coleus has vivid, multi-colored foliage, while caladiums offer heart-shaped leaves with red and white patterns.	Coleus, caladiums, heucheras
Soft and Subtle Arrangement	Create a relaxed and understated feel using shade-tolerant flowers like astilbes, complemented by silver-leaf plants such as dusty miller and lamb's ear. Astilbes provide soft plumes that contrast beautifully with gray-silver tones of the foliage.	Astilbes, dusty miller, lamb's ear
Trailing and Cascading Arrangement	Focus on trailing plants for dynamic movement, such as English ivy, sweet potato vine, or creeping Jenny. Pair with upright options like fuchsias or	English ivy, creeping Jenny, fuchsias, torenias, sweet

	toreneas that add contrast and vibrant bell-shaped blossoms.	potato vine
Pollinator-Friendly Arrangement	Attract pollinators to shaded spots with nectar-producing flowers and herbs. Mix blooms like bee balm, dwarf lantana, and shade-tolerant lavender, complemented by aromatic herbs such as mint or lemon balm for fragrance.	Bee balm, dwarf lantana, lavender, mint, lemon balm

Combination Arrangements for Partial Shade

Combination	Plants Included	Features
Cool Elegance	Hostas, Brunnera, and Impatiens	A calm combination with lush green foliage from Hostas and Brunnera, contrasted by the pops of color from Impatiens.
Tropical Touch	Caladium, Begonia, and Creeping Jenny	Bold and exotic, with Caladium's vibrant leaves, Begonia's colorful flowers, and Creeping Jenny's cascading green.
Soft Serenity	Astilbe, Heuchera, and Maidenhair Fern	A softer palette with Astilbe's airy blooms, Heuchera's multi-colored foliage, and the delicate texture of Maidenhair Fern.
Bright Contrast	Coleus, Torenia, and Blue Fescue	Striking color contrasts, with vibrant Coleus leaves, Torenia's cheerful flowers, and the cool tones of Blue Fescue.
Classic Beauty	Hydrangeas, Ferns, and White Lobelia	Timeless charm with Hydrangeas' lush blooms, various types of ferns, and delicate White Lobelia flowers.

Floral and Foliage Arrangements for Shady Areas

Theme	Description	Example Plants
Monochromatic Elegance	Focuses on different shades of a single color for a serene and sophisticated look. Uses soft, light tones to brighten shaded areas.	White impatiens, dusty miller, lamb's ear
Tropical Paradise	Utilizes dramatic foliage and contrasting flowering plants to mimic a lush jungle habitat. Requires consistently moist soil.	Caladium, elephant ears, fuchsia
Textural Contrasts	Combines a variety of textures with bold, broad leaves and delicate, airy foliage for visual interest and depth.	Hostas, maidenhair ferns, English ivy
Cottage Charm	Creates a natural, whimsical aesthetic with shade-tolerant cottage garden-style plants, featuring soft-hued flowers and colorful foliage.	Begonias, astilbe, coral bells, lamium
Pollinator-Friendly Ensemble	Attracts pollinators with nectar-rich plants, complemented by foliage plants with unique textures. Supports local pollinator populations.	Foxgloves, lungwort

Floral and Foliage Combinations for Shady Areas

Flower 1	Flower 2	Description
Begonias	Heuchera	Vibrant blooms paired with richly hued or patterned foliage.
Caladium	Ferns	Bold, colorful leaves contrasted with delicate, feathery greenery.
Lobelia	Bacopa	Bright blue or purple flowers matched with trailing white blossoms.
Impatiens	Ivy	Soft, colorful blooms combined with textured, trailing green ivy.
Coleus	Sweet Alyssum	Stunning foliage is complemented by small, fragrant pastel or white flowers.

Flowers	Foliage	Notes
Impatiens	Caladium	Bright blooms paired with colorful, heart-shaped leaves for a bold look.
Begonias	Ferns	A classic combination offering texture and soft greenery.
Torenia (Wishbone Flower)	Sweet Potato Vine	Unique blossoms combined with trailing leaves for dynamic visual impact.
Astilbes	Hostas	Elegant spikes of flowers with lush, variegated leaves for contrast.
Fuchsias	Creeping Jenny	Pendulous blooms matched with vibrant, trailing foliage.