

Container Garden Instructions and Tips – Goes with the Video Mar 2020
Karen Rice – Grapevine Garden Club

1. Purchase a soil mix intended for pots. It may have fertilizer and water retaining crystals in the mix. Otherwise Pre-soak water storage crystals if you are going to make your own soil mix.
2. Use your soil mix or mix about 1/3 top soil & 2/3 landscape mix with ½ - 1 cup of the soaked “plumped” crystals.
3. Place Coffee filter(s) or newspaper at bottom of your clean pot. This will help retain the soil while allowing water to drain through the holes.
4. Fill the pot up about two-thirds of the way with soil mix.
5. Select and arrange plants (leaving in the individual pots) in the pot on top of the soil. You can change the positions to get the affect you are looking for. Remove the pots keeping them arranged in the proper order.
6. If you have caladium bulbs, place them in a strategic position in the pot on top of the soil. 2-3 caladiums will do nicely.
7. Un-sleeve plants from pots, loosening root ball as needed
8. Place / pack the “un-potted” plants in your container, using tall plants in back or center. Feature plant in the center.
9. Place shorter plants, and “spillers” nearer the edges.
10. Fill in the gaps between the plants with soil mix.
11. Make room in the space between plants for “6 pak” plants. 3 of these small plants will provide some filler and color during the summer.
12. Water when you finish to “set” the plants. Wait an hour and water again.
13. Feed regularly with balanced fertilizer, liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, or other like a slow release fertilizer. Look for fertilizers that have nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium + micronutrients.
14. Don’t forget to deadhead to extend the life of your container garden. Pinch off leaves at the top of coleus and other plants to force the growth to be bushier.

Note:

- A “Sun” pot requires at least 6 hrs. of sun a day
- Bronze leafed plants typically can tolerate more sun than light colored leaves.