

# Rosewood Garden Designs

Classic American and European Gardens  
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## **Container Gardening, the art of combining color, texture and scale to create beautiful container plantings.**

First we start with the basics, the pot itself, I recommend a pot at least 12” wide by the same height. The larger the pot, the more volume you can achieve. I love combining different size pots into groups, often using a larger pot, 24” or so, a mid-size pot 16-18” and then either a smaller one or even a wider bowl shaped pot. I also like to let a large single pot be the center of attention. All pots need holes for drainage to prevent the soil from blocking the holes, I use broken pottery or lava rock. For soil I use a Container Mix by Fafard, but have also used many other potting mixes. Don’t use garden soil or top soil, it’s too heavy.

Once you have chosen your containers, it’s time to pick plants. I often start with one plant I really like, and then build around it. I decide if I want strong, bright contrast, or a softer, perhaps even more monochromatic look. One thing that will help you decide is how strong the color of your first plant is. For example, if you have a vibrant purple, you might combine it with strong pink and bright yellow. If you have chosen soft lavender, then you would want to add more delicate pinks and yellows.

The next thing I think about is texture and scale. If I have a lot of small leaves and flowers, I try to add something that has a bigger leaf/flower, or is a different texture like a soft carex. It really helps to group your plants together at the nursery.

An interesting container planting usually has three structural elements, the center, the mid level that gives volume and trailers that grow over the side to soften the edges. I start with the center plant, add the mid level and finally the trailers. It’s easier to handle the plants that way, and to make adjustments.

Jeni Munn is the owner of Rosewood Garden Designs, a design-build firm in Charlotte since 1999. A frequent speaker and lecturer, her work has been featured in Southern Living Magazine.

Thank you  
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