



MAHONEY

ASSOCIATES, LLC

A FULL SERVICE LANDSCAPE FIRM

Inspiration for Spectacular Summer Flowerpots



Creating gorgeous, bespoke flower displays is one of the Mahoney team's favorite springtime activities. Did you know that the secret to beautiful displays includes heroes and back up dancers? Read on for insight and inspiration!

Successful planter composition includes hero, filler and spiller plants.

Plant people amusingly refer to the larger, central focal plants in a container as the "hero" plants. These central plants provide the tall structural element that smaller plants are built around.



There's a long tradition on the East Coast of using tropical plants as the focal point in show-stopping summer pots.

Here are a few favorite high-impact hero plants:



Alocasia, commonly known as Elephant Ear, has enormous, heart-shaped leaves available in rich green, deep purplish black, striped, variegated, and scalloped-edge varieties.



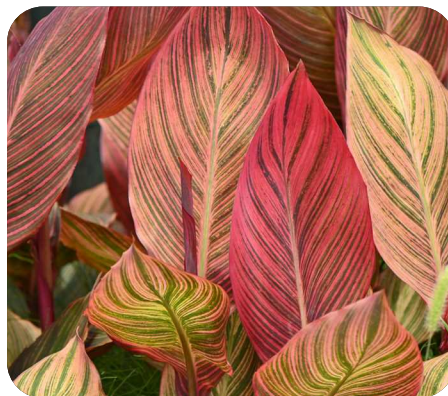
Finer leaf palms, including Majesty Palm, Cat Palm, and Sago Palm, create an immediate presence with their upright trunk and large fronds.



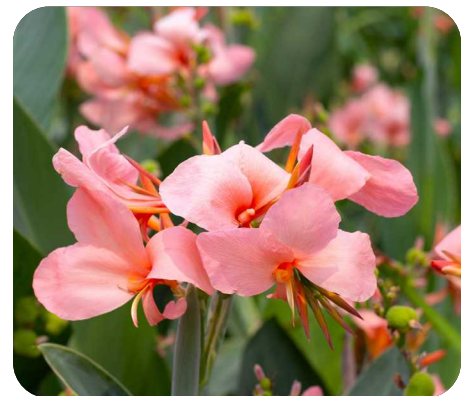
Dragon Wing and Angel Wing are begonia varieties appreciated for their abundant flowers and sturdy, upright growth habit. Begonias are available in just about any blossom color and some also have stunning foliage like the Rex begonia shown here.



Australian Tree Fern's feathery, arching fronds make it a captivating focal point well suited for serene spaces that are protected from strong winds.



Cannas make a bold statement with their lush paddle-shaped foliage in variegated, deep bronze or green colors.



Cannas' showy summer blooms in red, yellow, peach, pink, or white are a delightful bonus.

Filler and spiller plants amplify star power.

While tall plants anchor container arrangements, a mix of filler and spiller plants create abundance and rich visual interest. Just like great back up dancers, filler and spiller plants give a performance more depth, nuance, and something for the star to play against.

Here are a few standouts for inspiration for your summertime pots and containers.



Coleus foliage is available in endless colors. It quickly fills in planters and trails beautifully over the sides.



Foxtail fern is an asparagus fern with a more structured plume.



Angel wire's small glossy leaves and thin wiry stems add interesting texture, and it spills wonderfully over the container's edge.



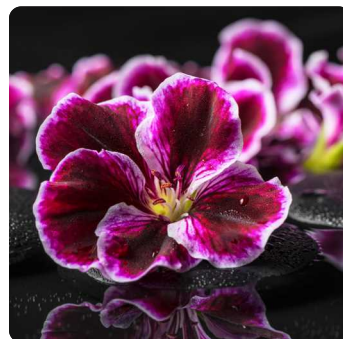
Spiderwort, also known by its genus Tradescantia, is appreciated for its wandering, trailing nature. The Baby Bunny Bellies cultivar truly feels as silky as a bunny's belly.



Lantana is described as trailing, weeping and climbing; this hardy low-growing, prolific bloomer also has a lovely fragrance.



Petunia is a classic that serves as a filler and spiller surrounding the hero plants while putting on an amazing show.



Geraniums are available in many varieties and colors, including a dramatic beauty with dark foliage and pink flowers.



Dahlias can take center stage or a supporting role. For a traditional look, pair dahlias with geraniums and lobelia.

Things to consider when selecting pots.

Planters are an investment you'll want to keep for many years. With proper care, some can last for decades.

- A classic style or simple shape that aligns with your home's architecture will serve you well. Flower displays can change dramatically from year to year without competing with the planter.
- Traditional terra cotta, concrete, and ceramic pots cannot be left outside during the winter, as collected water will freeze and crack the pot. Make sure to plan for protected wintertime storage and relocation.
- Planters made of composite materials can stay outside all year, plus are lighter weight and easier to move.

Most containers require daily watering.

Automated irrigation is highly recommended if you're not going to be with your planters 24/7. The soil in containers dries out faster because it gets heat from all sides.

- A single large planter may require a gallon of water per day, even more while the plants are getting established.
- Water consistently, but make sure the root zone doesn't become waterlogged, which will drown the plants' delicate roots.



Summertime flower displays are an opportunity to be bold and adventurous with your color choices and style. But you can't go wrong with traditional classics. Whatever style sparks joy for you, Mahoney's team will create containers that delight and impress you and your guests all summer long.

Contact your account manager today to confirm your summer flower displays!

