

# Gardening in Pots



## *Do's*

- Use pots and containers in sun and shade to soften and add interest
- Fill with a mix of soil based compost and multipurpose, a 50/50 mix is perfect
- Make sure that there are drainage holes in the bottom of your pots and raise the pot slightly off the ground
- Mix slow release fertilizer into the compost to give the plants the correct nutrients over the coming months
- Gradually pot plants on into larger pots and also tease out old soil making way for new soil and nutrients

## *Don'ts*

- Mix sun and shade loving plants in the same pot as they prefer different conditions to perform well
- Let pots and containers dry out, in peak season watering is needed every other day for sunny positions
- Forget to allow space for the plants root system to grow into the pot
- Choose lots of different styles of pots, less is more and it looks more pleasing to the eye, the same applies with colour
- Forget to mulch, bark or moss is perfect and reduces evaporation

*"Every flower blooms in it's own time"*



# How to Succeed...



## PICK A POT

Pick a style that suits your garden and a size that suits the plants requirements. Less is more when picking a range of styles, try and match in sympathetically with the existing materials in your garden



## CORRECT COMPOST

Whether it be a new or an old pot new soil is essential. 50/50 John Innes No.2 or 3 with Multi-Purpose is ideal. For acid loving plants use Ericaceous compost instead of the multi purpose



## CREATE DRAINAGE

Drainage is essential. Make sure there is either 1 big central hole or you can drill several smaller ones. Then add a 2 inch layer of clean gravel or broken clay pots to prevent blockage



## CHOOSE THE POSITION

Work out the position of your pot before planting it up. Sun, shade or maybe 50/50. Then put large pots on some feet to allow the water to drain out of the holes before you fill it



## MIX IN FERTILISER

Mix slow release pellets in when you first plant. These balls then release the nutrients over a certain period. Then top up with fertiliser applied to the surface annually



## PLANT UP YOUR POT

Now for the fun bit. After picking plants suited to the location eg sun or shade moisten any dry compost and tease out roots and firm them in well with your fingers.



## APPLY A TOP DRESSING

The top dressing reduces the rate which moisture can evaporate from the soil and also prevents weeds. Apply bark or use moss for a more traditional feel



## WATER AND ENJOY

Keep an eye on the watering especially in the early days. Use your fingers to gauge if the soil is dry a few inches down. Soak well early morning or evening



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