

# MIXERS

Care Sheet · [www.LibertyFamilyFarms.com](http://www.LibertyFamilyFarms.com) · Ludlow, Massachusetts

## Garden Care

- Full sun to part shade
- Regular water
- Durable varieties, require very little care once planted

## Fillers for Coverage

**Dusty Miller:** AKA: Silver Ragwort. Soft silvery white felted leaves provide contrast in beds and containers. Height: 6-18 inches Spread: 6-12 inches

**Gypsophila:** AKA Baby's Breath. Clouds of soft white flowers, densely branched. Lovely in border fronts, rock gardens, or arrangements. Height: 12-18 inches Spread: 16-24 inches

## Spillers for Depth

**Ipomoea:** AKA: Sweet Potato Vine. Vigorous mounded, trailing vine of chartreuse foliage. Often used as a sprawling groundcover or for hanging down over the edge of containers or window boxes. Height: 4-10 inches Spread: 48-60 inches

## Mixers: Supporting Players

### *Take DIY Containers Up a Level*

Mixers are essential plants that are the building blocks of DIY container combinations. These are the supporting players that help boost the profile of the bigger stars of the plant universe, those that might have beautiful blooms but stems that are too thin, for example. Some mixers have become DIY favorites because they're so efficient in their fundamental roles.



First of all, these varieties are durable. They're flexible and they're tough—many are drought tolerant and perform equally well in sun or shade. In addition, each has a special feature, be it shape, texture, or color, that makes it interesting. These plants have character, a stage presence that enhances not only the major players but the arrangement overall. On top of all that, mixers are a breeze to grow. They require very little care once they are planted so virtually anyone can achieve success, which explains why mixers are so well loved.



## Thrillers for Drama

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**Argemone:** AKA: Marguerite Daisy. Bushy plants produce showy, daisy-like white flowers with yellow center disks. Dark green leaves are aromatic when crushed. Blooms throughout the summer though it might slow down in the heat. Attracts butterflies!

Height: 2-3 feet

Spread: 2-3 feet



**Cyperus papyrus 'Cleopatra':** AKA: Dwarf Rush or Sedge. Native to Africa. Forms a clump of grass-like foliage with tall stems topped by umbels that look like starbursts. Makes a graceful accent in patio pots, and can also be used in water gardens or along the edges of ponds or streams.

Height: 28 inches

Spread: 31 inches

## Elevate Home Garden Designs, Too

While they are famous for container work, mixers are reliable and unfussy in the garden, too, so the only issue they present is how to use them. Most mixers fit into one or more of three major categories: fillers, spillers, or thrillers.

### *Fillers Provide Color Coverage*

Fillers are usually low-growers with a low profile that spread out to cover the soil with color. Like footlights they are also used to brighten empty spots in between drama plants without ever stealing the show. Baby's Breath is a popular example of filler.

### *Spillers Amplify Depth and Texture*

Spreading, trailing spillers cascade over the edges of planters, hanging baskets, and stone walls, adding extra dimension to a design. Vines fall under this category, some with interesting leaf shapes and colors, like the deeply lobed Sweet Potato Vine. Spillers often double as filler in a composition.

### *Thrillers Heighten the Impact*

Thrillers deliver the WOW factor. Each has an eye-catching characteristic that serves as a focal point for an arrangement. Tall stems topped with showy flowers make Argemone a thriller—plus it creates a buzz attracting butterflies to the garden!

