

MIXERS

Care Sheet · www.LibertyFamilyFarms.com · Ludlow, Massachusetts

Fillers for Coverage

Gypsophila: Baby's Breath.
Clouds of small white flowers on a densely branched plant. Easy care; drought tolerant.
· Height: 12-18 inches
· Spread: 16-24 inches

Spillers for Depth

Dichondra: A vine with silvery green foliage. Very heat and drought tolerant.
· Height: 2-3 inches
· Spread: 18-36 inches

Helichrysum: Upright mound of vigorous, trailing silver-white foliage. Drought tolerant.
· Height: 8-12 inches
· Spread: 18-20 inches

Ipomoea: Sweet Potato Vine. Mounded, trailing vine of chartreuse foliage. Loves the heat and humidity; vigorous.
· Height: 4-10 inches
· Spread: 48-60 inches

Vinca Vine: A trailing vine of variegated green foliage with true blue flowers. There's no need to deadhead.
· Height: 3-6 inches
· Spread: 8-12 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.



Dichondra draping over a rock wall

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.



Vinca Vine with blue flowers

Thrillers for Drama

Dracaena: Long, sword-shaped green leaves in a tall, upright habit. Average water; easy care.

- Height: 24-36 inches
- Spread: 15-18 inches

Iresine: Vigorous, upright low-growing plant with exotic bright red foliage. Heat/shade tolerant.

- Height: 18-30 inches
- Spread: 16-20 inches

Pennisetum rubrum: Purple Fountain Grass. Graceful, arching plumes nod above a clump of narrow burgundy-purple foliage.

- Height: 3-4 feet
- Spread: 1-2 feet

Perilla: A mound of bright, multi-colored leaves. Keep soil moist; remove spent flower spikes.

- Height: 2-3 feet
- Spread: 2-3 feet



Variegated leaves of Perilla

Elevate Home Garden Designs

While they are famous for container work, mixers are reliable and unfussy in the garden, too. Use them for their unique strengths, just as you do in your DIY containers.

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 are in this category, some with interesting leaf shapes and colors, like Vinca Vine. Spillers often double as filler.

Thrillers Heighten the Drama

Thrillers deliver the WOW factor. Each has an eye-catching characteristic that serves as a focal point for an arrangement. Tall, sword-like leaves make Spike a classic thriller, while lesser-known Perilla lights up a design with unexpected multicolored foliage.



Dracaena thriller with Calibrachoa as filler