

Window Boxes

Window boxes and other plant containers can be enjoyable year round. Just because it isn't summer any longer doesn't mean those pots have lost their use until next year. Create some texture and color for winter box use. Below are a few ideas on what I mean. Remember: You are only limited by your imagination. I like the idea of finishing a window box off with moss, but it isn't necessary. Most all of these items can be picked up at your local market, greenhouse, garden center, or our website, www.greenwoodnursery.com. Keep it simple and use what's available. For point of reference, we have used a 30 inch long window box liner.

In spring, swap out the box liner with another liner filled with spring/summer blooming annuals or perennials. Your winter collection can be kept as is for several years. Some of the plant varieties you may want to relocate to your landscape so their root systems can expand.



Here are 2 Rosemary trees in gallon containers from my local market, 2 Blue Rug Junipers in gallon containers from a local garden center, sprays of evergreens, Boxwood and Bittersweet from walking in the woods.



The 3 Heuchera Plum Pudding, in gallon containers from Greenwood Nursery, and the 4 Sedum Angelina (an item left over from Greenwood Nursery that we don't sell any longer) provide a wonderful contrast. These colors would look gorgeous against a house with white or other lighter color siding.

Ornamental grasses are so versatile to work with. The smaller sizes are just perfect for containers. Here are 2 Hameln grasses in gallon containers in the center with one Blue Glow Fescue grass in a gallon container on each end. Tucked in are 4 Pachysandra Green Sheen. (All items from Greenwood Nursery.)





Sweet and simple is this look. On each end are 1 gallon size Emerald Green Arborvitae, 2 of the gallon size of the grass, Acorus ogon, with 3 Woolly Thymes draping over the front (all items from Greenwood Nursery.)

Although the growth on most plants will have slowed during winter, without any regular rainfall, you may need to water every few weeks to keep all of the plants from drying out. Make certain that your planting container has several drainage holes. A few rocks, piece of tile or foam peanuts are good for placing over the drainage holes to keep them from getting blocked. Top the container off with moss or Excelsior for a wonderful finished look.

Here's a listing of a few plants that in their young state, gallon containers and smaller, that work perfectly in window boxes and other containers. Don't limit yourself to just these varieties. Use what is available in your area.

Junipers
Arborvitae
Pines
Boxwood
Holly
Small mum's
Heuchera plum pudding
Miniature roses
Winter heather

Ornamental cabbage
Rosemary
Creeping thyme
Pachysandra
Cool season ornamental grasses
Evergreen ferns
Ivy
Hens & chicks

Remember to have fun with gardening projects and be creative. Bring out some of those old decorations from the attic and put them into use again outside in the containers, such as that tiny artificial tree or those wooden spirally trees. They would look very festive and gives them a new purpose.

Happy Holidays,

Cheryl