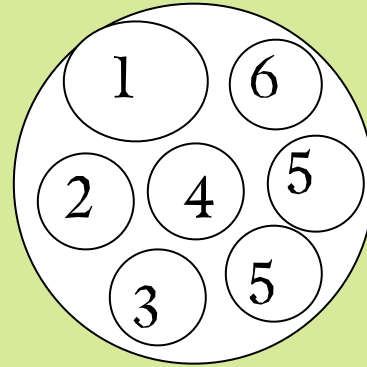


Recipe Card for the
Container Design of the Month
Designed by David Green at Portland Nursery

August 2010

Design of the Month



Midnight Spirit

1. Sambucus 'Black Lace'
2. Ipomea 'Sweet Caroline Bronze'
3. Salvia discolor
4. Coprosma 'Tequila Sunrise'
5. Ajuga 'Golden Glow'
6. Dahlia 'Mystic Spirit'

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Steps:

1. Fill your container 2/3 of the way with all-purpose Potting Soil.
2. Mix some fertilizer into the soil in the container. We have always had exceptional results with *E.B. Stone Sure Start* and *Osmocote*.
3. Moistening the soil so that it is damp is an important step if your potting soil is old or on the dry side.
Most fresh bags of soil should take up water evenly when you water the plants.
4. Plant your container. It helps to gently loosen the root of each plant to enhance root development.
5. Fill the nooks and crannies with moist potting soil.
6. Water your newly planted container thoroughly and enjoy!

Substitutions:

Sometimes you cannot find the exact cultivated variety we have listed above. Luckily there are substitutions that will offer a similar or even preferred look. *Loropetalum* or *Euphorbia* also have dark foliage like the *Sambucus*. *Lysmachia* 'Chocolate' could sub for the *Ipomea*, and *Euphorbia* 'Ascot Rainbow' can sub for the *Coprosma*. A gold *Erica* or *Sedum seboldi* 'Mediovariegata' can sub for the *Ajuga*. *Astelia* offers the silver of the *Salvia*. *Zinnias* or marigolds have orange flowers like the dahlia.

Care and Maintenance:

The plants in this container will thrive with up to 5 hours of morning to mid-day sun. Water when slightly dry, being careful not to over water. Top dress and gently scratch into the surface some granular all-purpose fertilizer 3 months after planting. The primroses can be replaced in early summer with new shade loving summer annuals.