



IMAGINE

...a year-round display that needs very little
care and gets better every year



The challenge: Starting with a blank canvas, **design a deck or patio garden with winter structure and summer color.**

Chamaecyparis thyoides
'Ericoides'
Four-year specimen;
annual growth 1½-2in.
Red male flowers
in spring.

Picea glauca albertiana
'Conica'
Four-year specimen;
annual growth 2½in.

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana
'Ellwood's Pillar'
Four-year specimen;
annual growth 4-6in.

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana
'Snow White'
Three-year specimen;
annual growth 4in.

Abies balsamea 'Nana'
Four-year specimen; annual growth 1-1½in.

Picea pungens 'Globosa'
Five-year specimen;
annual growth 2-2½in.

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana
'Pygmaea Argentea'
Seven-year specimen; annual growth 1½in.

Impact on a small scale

Dwarf conifers have dense evergreen foliage that adds strength and body to small-scale planting schemes in rock and heather gardens or raised beds. They can be planted in tubs as patio features, to add substance to more frivolous annuals and bulbs, or provide welcome contrast to the bright colours of a mixed border. Rather than let one miniature tree stand on its own as a solitary punctuation mark, take advantage of the shapes, colours and textures of different cultivars, and try incorporating two or three in a composition of year-round character and interest.

Photographed at a private collection in February.

Juniperus squamata 'Blue Star'
Four-year specimen; annual growth 3½in.

Juniperus communis
'Sentinel'
Five-year specimen;
annual growth 2½in.

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana
'Treasure'
Four-year specimen;
annual growth 3in.

Juniperus communis
'Compressa'
Seven-year specimen;
annual growth 1in.

Juniperus communis 'Green Carpet'
Four-year specimen; annual spread 4in.

Chamaecyparis pisifera
'Filifera Golden Mop'
Four-year specimen; annual growth 3in.

Pinus leucodermis 'Schmidtii'
Seven-year specimen;
annual growth ½-1in.

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana
'Minima Aurea'
Three-year specimen;
annual growth 1½in.

Inspiration: an English gardening book.



Reality: **adapt the concept to your space.**



Get started: **with five evergreens**

- 🌳 Choose different kinds and shapes.
- 🌳 Repot them in an assortment of frost-proof containers.



Evergreens are categorized into broadleaf (holly, boxwood) and needled (pine, spruce, juniper) types. Shapes include conical/pyramidal, columnar, mounded, weeping, spreading.

- 🌿 Set up the containers in a space that deer can't reach, ideally outside a window so you can enjoy them year-round.
- 🌳 Add a watering can or sculpture.
- 🌲 Why not add a few more evergreens every year?

The result...

A serene winter scene featuring a variety of potted plants, including evergreens and flowering branches, all heavily laden with snow. The plants are arranged on a snow-covered patio or deck. In the background, a calm pond reflects the snowy landscape, with a wooden fence and snow-covered trees visible beyond it. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and festive.

**Wonderful
in winter.**

Spring clean-up
is easy.



**Prune dead branches & needles and
refresh the containers by adding more
soil, compost, top-dressing, and...**



A vibrant garden scene featuring a variety of potted plants and decorative containers. In the foreground, a large, light-colored ceramic pot with a Buddha head sculpture sits on a stack of concrete blocks. Next to it is a small, colorful, patterned pot with a plant. A large, blue, cylindrical pot is also visible. In the background, there are several wooden planters filled with greenery and flowers. The overall scene is a lush, well-maintained garden.

**add
decorative
containers
planted
with
annuals
and
perennials.**



**Change it around.
Enjoy at night, too.**

More tips:

- 🌲 Put big containers on rolling stands so you can move them around easily.
- 🌲 Set small ones on pot feet.
- 🌲 Try using risers like bricks or cement blocks.
- 🌲 When the evergreens get too big, you can plant them in the garden (and spray for deer if necessary).

What about for a small patio or terrace?



Keep container sizes at 12" or smaller. Choose dwarf evergreens. Add small-scale sculptures. Group tightly.

**Get creative with decorative
containers and flowering annuals.**



Right after our Plant Sale is the perfect time to make the containers—including some with natives.



HORTICULTURE BULLETIN

VOLUME ONE NO 1

Think Blue!

Our club is participating in the mandatory horticulture class, "Spectrum," at "Kaleidoscope," the GCA Annual Meeting flower show that will be held in Rochester, NY, May 17-19, 2015. In order to have a winning entry, we are encouraging the whole club to participate in growing plants. This is a challenging contest; we will be competing with 21 other garden clubs all around the state. Specifics on how to prepare the entry are on the reverse side.



Pot et Fleur in our Gilded Cage flower show

To design a mixed planting hort entry, start with a sketch or a collage of photos. Here are some ideas:



Blue Lupines



Nemophila 'Baby Blue Eyes'



Blue Morning Glory (Ipomoea indica)



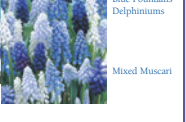
Persian Blue Allium



Blue Fountains Delphiniums



Riviera Sky Blue Lobelia



Mixed Muscari



Primula Blue Zebra

And our club has the talent to show you how!



Kaleidoscope

Class 42

7 entries

SPECTRUM

Zone III Container Class required of each club in Zone III and open only to those clubs. A 14" terra cotta colored container, planted in shades of one color. Key card required. Three months ownership. Class 42 Purple (4 entries) and Blue (3 entries)
Container Garden Scale of Points: Cultural perfection 40; Scale, balance and design 35; Suitability and compatibility of plant material 15; Suitable key card 10; Total 100 GCA FS&JG July, 2014 edition



JUDGES COMMENDATION

PRESENTED TO: SPECTRUM : PURPLE/BLUE

12

A photograph of two women standing behind a large, overflowing container garden. The garden is filled with various blue and purple flowers, including delphiniums, lupines, and morning glories. The woman on the left is wearing a light green jacket and a patterned scarf. The woman on the right is wearing a blue and white patterned shirt under a grey cardigan. They are both smiling at the camera. In the foreground, a white sign is visible, which is part of the 'SPECTRUM' competition display. The sign lists 'Class 42' with '7 entries' and provides details about the competition rules and judging criteria. A 'JUDGES COMMENDATION' sign is also visible, showing the entry number '12'.



Wait! Don't deer love native plants?

Yes, they're highly nutritious, tasty, packed with high water content, and easier to digest than many exotic species. A natural, year-round food source, natives provide necessary nutrients for deer survival, antler growth, and fawn rearing. **So...**

**Put them
in a pot!**



Benefits:

- 🌱 Better for the planet.
- 🦋 Will attract pollinators like butterflies to your deck or patio. Just remember to place where deer can't reach.
- 🌿 Just like they do in the garden, will return every year.
- 🌲 Natural beauty.



**The pot
alone
can be
beautiful.**



Even more beautiful **with evergreens.**

Consider:

- ✿ **Shape and size of pot.** Tall pots hold more soil allowing for healthy root growth, better drainage and aeration, and longer life.
- 🌲 **Soil.** We like bagged organic potting soil, amended with vermiculite and compost.
- ✿ **Drainage.** Pots must have a drainage hole, which can be covered with mesh to keep the soil inside.
- 🌱 **Water.** Evergreens are happy with rainfall and snow in the winter, but in July-August you may need to water the containers with flowering plants daily.

 **Feeding.** Osmocote mixed with the potting soil can feed all year. Each spring, remove the top inch of soil and mix in a tablespoon of fresh Osmocote.

 **Pruning.** Lightly prune evergreens to desired (natural) shape. Cut away any dead needles. Deadhead flowering plants to keep blooms coming. Insect damage can be cut away and treated with organic spray such as Bon-Neem.

 **Color and Texture.** Do the plants harmonize with each other, the containers you've chosen, and with the other elements in the space?

Example #1:

More than one plant in a pot?

Evergreen: False Cypress

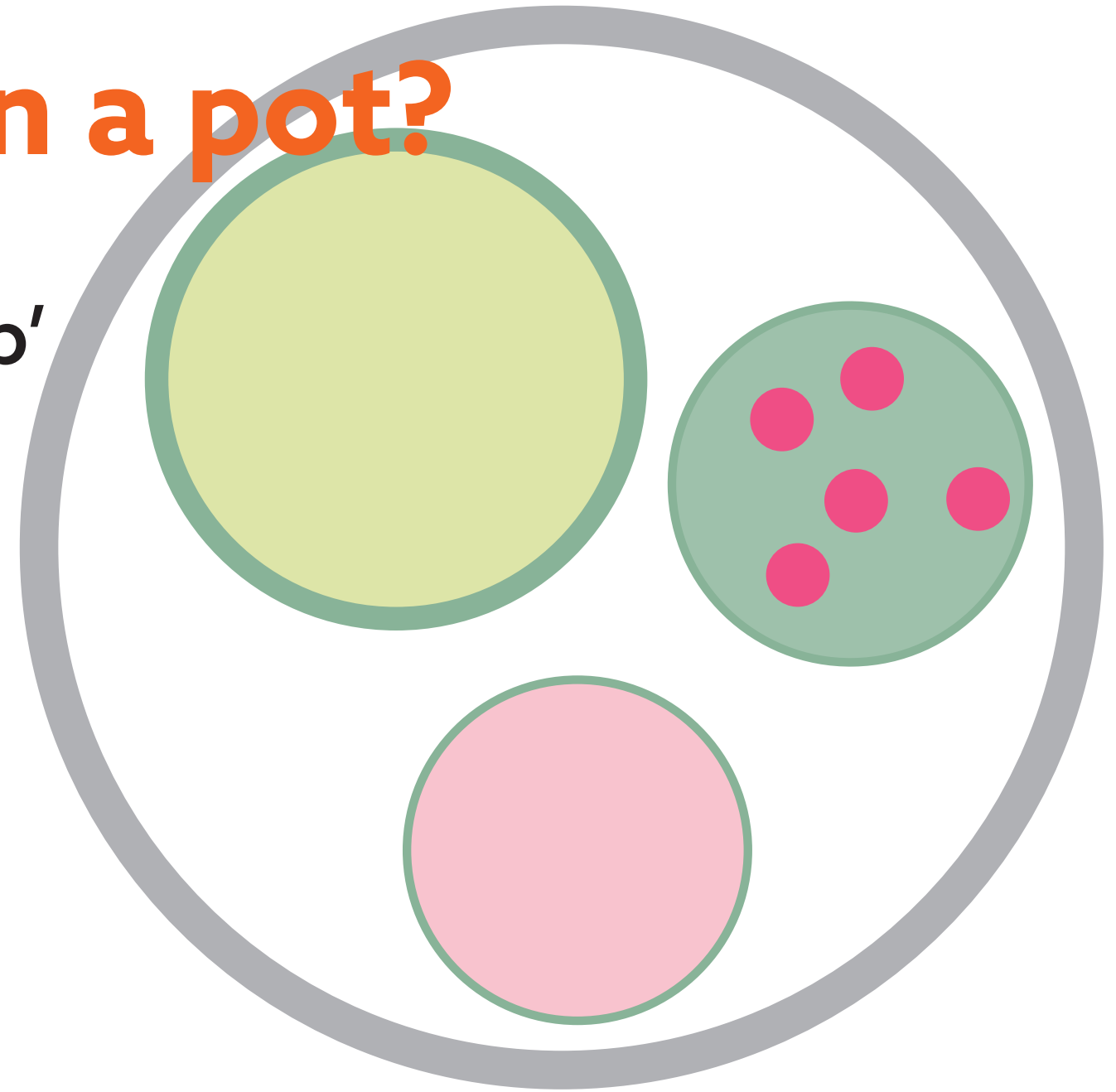
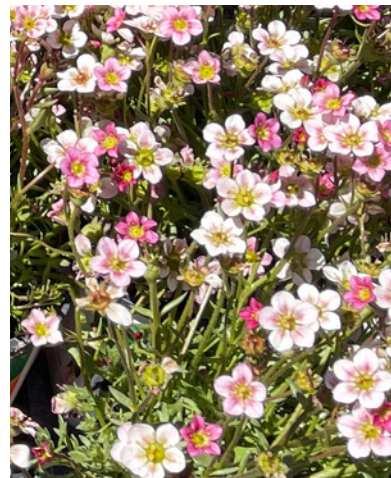
Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Golden Mop'

Perennial: English Daisy

Bellis perennis Habanera Red*

Perennial: Saxifrage

*Saxifraga x Arendsii**



*Not native but attracts pollinators



This container was inspired by the thriller, filler, spiller concept.

Example
#1:

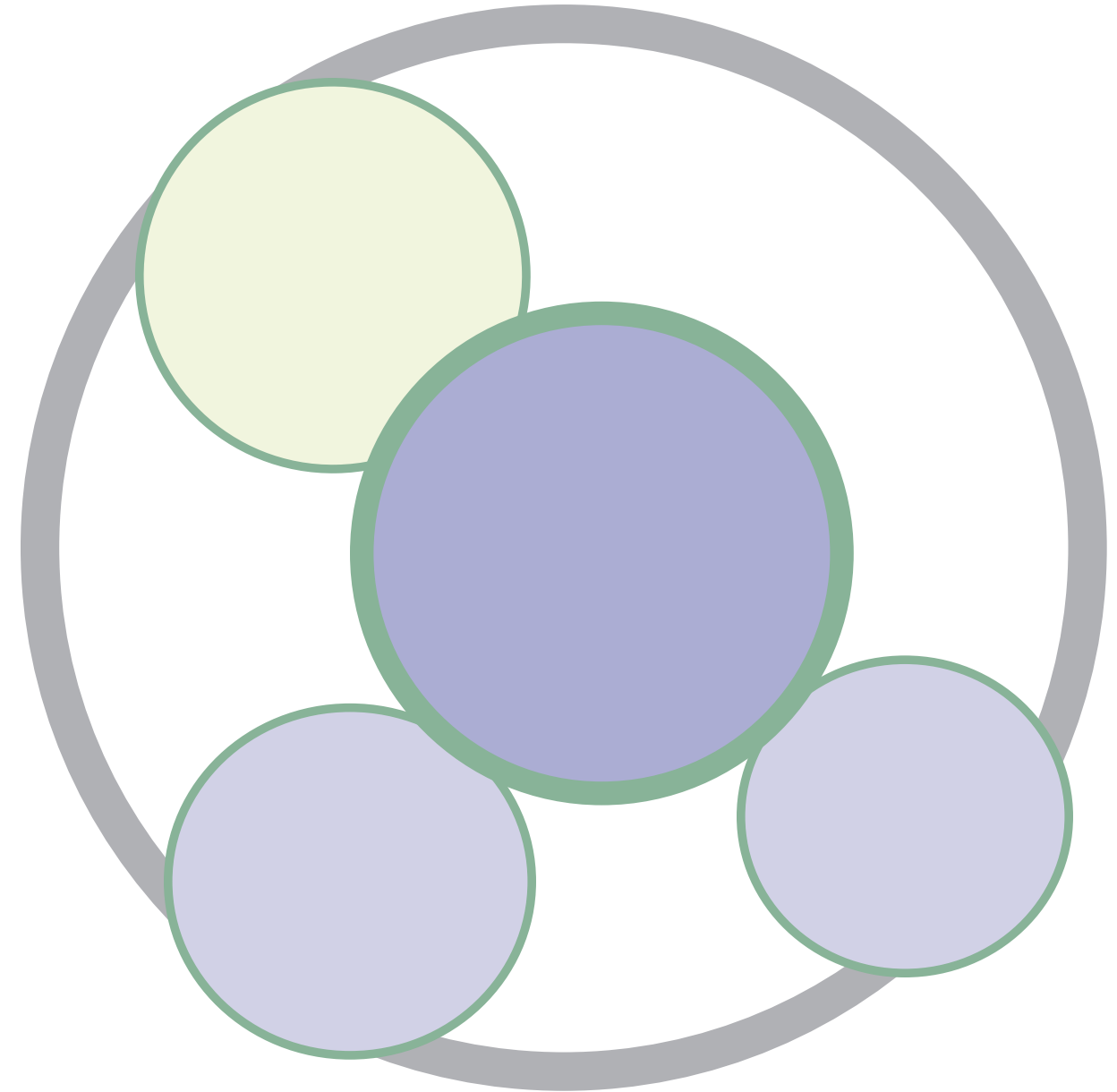
Example #2:

Natives for part shade

Thriller: **Jacob's Ladder**
polemonium 'Heaven Scent'

Filler: **Sweet Woodruff** (*Galium odoratum*) and/or **Yarrow** (*Achillea*)

Spiller: **Creeping Speedwell**
Veronica 'Waterperry Blue'





**Are you ready
to create *your* year-round deck-
patio-terrace garden?**



Here's an example
by one of our
members.

for more information:

 See the slide show on container gardening with native plants by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia

<https://mgnv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/container-gardening-natives-video-2025>