

# Pot planting made easy

By JoAnn Lubick

**A**t Garden Accents, we are often asked what plants to use in a pot, and the correct method of planting. The choice of plants to use in pots is almost limitless. Because of a gopher problem, my whole vegetable garden is potted. From vine plants like cucumbers, to tomatoes, onions and herbs, all have been happy in pots. For decorative pots, look for a combination of a tall plant, like a grass as a focal point (a “thriller”), shorter plants like petunias or snapdragons (a “filler”) and a draping plant like sweet potato vine, germander or scented geranium (a “spiller”). Play with your ideas. In nature, almost everything has the potential to be beautiful.

There are currently two schools of thought on the process of transplanting from nursery pots to decorative pots. One way is to fill the whole pot with potting soil. The theory behind this is that the top 1/3 of the soil will be too dry, the bottom 1/3 too wet, and the middle 1/3 ideal for root systems. Personally, I prefer the old fashioned method of adding drainage material to the bottom of the pot.

## Easy Potting Steps:

- 1** Line the bottom of the pot with either landscape barrier cloth or an old rag. This helps keep the dirt in while allowing the water to drain out.
- 2** Determine the depth of soil you will need (trees need deeper soil than bedding plants).
- 3** Fill the bottom of the pot with drainage helpers. Remember in the old days when we were told to use pottery shards and rocks? I use plastic water bottles, Styrofoam, egg cartons or glass bottles – anything that does not easily decompose. Next, fill your pot with soil and then water the soil well (you may have to add more soil).
- 4** As you transplant, do not bury the plant past the existing soil line. Your final step is to water your new plants and watch them grow. To ensure proper drainage and to minimize the staining of your surface under the decorative pot, raise your pot either with pot feet or pavers so the runoff from the pot can air dry. This also allows better circulation to the roots. If you like to use a saucer under your pots, I recommend using one of our “Down Under Pot Stands® to prevent water damage and to allow airflow under your saucer.

## Summer Tips For The Garden

Time for a water audit to make sure your irrigation system is fully functional.

Over seed your lawn to fill in any sparse areas.

Add mulch to flower beds to conserve water and keep weeds down.

Make sure your annuals are getting enough water and dead head spent blooms to keep the flowers coming.



Information provided by Garden Accents. They are located at 11155 Lena Avenue in Gilroy. Open Monday thru Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm and on Sundays from 8 am to 4 pm. Take a virtual tour of their lovely facility at [garden-accents.net](http://garden-accents.net).