



Spring cheer

Create a splash of spring colour with this easy and inexpensive pot display. **Kevin Smith** shows you how



February needn't be dull when it's possible to buy plants as bright and cheerful as this to bring a bit of life to your patio or doorstep. So go on, nip down to your local nursery or garden centre and see what colourful treasures you can find.

This arrangement cost us less than £30 to create, including the compost (which you've probably already got) and the beautiful glazed pot. We only bought one black ophiopogon, splitting it to make several plants, which also saved us a pretty penny. All the plants can be transplanted into the garden once they've finished flowering too, meaning you'll be able to enjoy them for years to come.

WE USED

20cm Astro glazed pot in yellow (£4.99, Woodlodge, 01932 579 100 or www.woodlodge.co.uk for stockists)

Peat-free compost (about £6 for 60 litres, from garden centres)

1 pot of flowering *Narcissus* 'Tête-à-tête' (about £2.50 for three bulbs in a 15cm pot, from garden centres)

3 *Primula* Gold-laced Group (around £1.50 each for plants in 10cm pots, from garden centres)

1 *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens' (£5.99 for a plant in a 1.5-litre pot, Crocus, 0844 557 2244, www.crocus.com, or readily available from garden centres)

Crocks and watering can



1 Place a few crocks in the bottom of the pot for drainage. You could also use broken polystyrene or small plastic plant pots.



2 Fill the container two-thirds full of multipurpose compost. Break it up as you go to ensure there are no air pockets.



3 Add the 'Tête-à-tête' narcissi to the back of the pot first, followed by the three primulas in a line along the front edge.



4 Split the black-leaved ophiopogon into several smaller plants. Do this by carefully breaking the rootball apart by hand.



The primulas hold their abundant flowers above the foliage on sturdy stems



5 Poke the smaller pieces of ophiopogon between the primulas and narcissi. Fill in with more compost as you go.



6 Firm down the compost and water the container thoroughly. Check the compost regularly to make sure it doesn't dry out.

■ Deadhead the primulas regularly to encourage plenty of fresh, new blooms

FIND LOTS OF other seasonal container recipes at www.gardenersworld.com/plants/pots-containers