

Fresh ideas

Give your patio or doorstep a colour boost with this simple, yet fiery, container recipe

Shades of the season

With leaves beginning to turn, why not plant a container to complement the rich colours of autumn? Pop down to your local garden centre now, and you'll find no end of seasonal bedding perfect for brightening up your patio. All the plants we picked are readily available, although don't worry if you can't find exactly the same things. The cordyline and grasses can be planted in the garden when they outgrow the container.

WE USED

- 1 x *Cordyline australis* Purpurea Group (around £5 for a plant in a 1-litre pot)
- 3 x *Solanum pseudocapsicum* (also sold as winter cherry, around £2 for a plant in a 9cm pot)
- 3 x *Uncinia rubra* (around £1.50 for a plant in a 9cm pot)
- 28cm glazed sphere planter (£16.99, Apta for similar 01233 621 090 or www.apta.co.uk for stockists)
- Peat-free compost (around £6 for a 75-litre bag from garden centres)
- Slow-release fertiliser granules (around £6 for a 1kg jar from garden centres)
- Broken crocks or polystyrene



1 Add a layer of crocks or broken polystyrene to the bottom of the pot and fill it with compost to a little below the rim. Mix in a couple of handfuls of fertiliser granules.



2 Plant the cordyline in the centre of the container, carefully teasing out the roots as you go. The top of the root ball should end up just below the top of the pot.



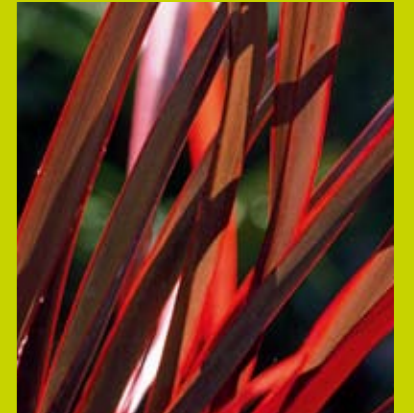
3 Add the winter cherries and grasses alternately around the edge of the container. Fill any gaps with more compost, move the pot to its final position and water well.

Get the wow factor by planting two identical pots to flank your front door

■ Remove shrivelled fruits to keep winter cherries looking fresh

■ Water regularly and don't let the compost dry out in winter winds

A cordyline for all tastes




For rich, intense colour you can't beat 'Red Star'. Combine it with dark-leaved ajuga and maroon pansies for a sophisticated, winter-long show.



Use 'Torbay Dazzler' to brighten up dark corners through the autumn and winter months. Team it with plain, simple plants to avoid a busy display.



Choose contrasting colours to complement 'Purple Tower.' White cyclamen, yellow pansies or silver foliage will all work a treat.

 FIND MORE inspiring ideas for pot and container displays this autumn at www.gardenersworld.com/plants/pots-containers