

Spring 2013

the magazine for success in the garden

PROVEN BEAUTY[®]



The Dirt on Perennials
Bicolor Blooms
Lovely Luminarias

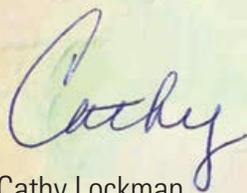
FILLED TO THE BRIM

Not only do those words describe the beautiful cart of spring blooms on the opposite page, they also describe the pages of this issue of *Proven Beauty*. From a foolproof way to create spectacular combinations to tips for feeding your shrubs, to ways to enjoy the healing properties of lavender, this spring issue is filled to the brim with practical gardening ideas and suggestions that you can use.

There's nothing like the promise of spring to reenergize the gardener in all of us. We hope the pages of *Proven Beauty* inspire your gardening creativity this spring. And for even more great ideas on making the most of your outdoor space, go to the back cover of the magazine and order your FREE copy of our *Gardener's Idea Book*.

It's filled to the brim, too.

Happy gardening,



Cathy Lockman
Editor

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**Download a pdf of this issue
by clicking here.**

Proven Beauty is an emagazine devoted to educating and inspiring gardeners. It is published four times a year. Send comments, questions, or story ideas to editor@provenwinners.com.

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On the front cover –

Outlined: SUPERTUNIA® PICASSO IN PINK™ *Petunia* hybrid
In containers: SUPERTUNIA® PICASSO IN PINK™ *Petunia* hybrid with ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia* hybrid and DIAMOND FROST® *Euphorbia* hybrid

Opposite:

SUPERBELLS® Pink *Calibrachoa* hybrid, SURFINIA® Sky Blue *Petunia* hybrid, and ivy



Creative planters



While colorful blooms and interesting textures are the heart and soul of garden design, the container you choose is its home. And a unique planter has the ability to magnify your design. All containers create visual interest just by the fact that they bring blooms to different levels in your garden space. Whether it's a small, eye-level planter that sits on your tabletop or a fence full of containers, like those shown here, the creative possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

Where do you find these unique ideas? From garden centers to antique stores to flea markets, there are treasures everywhere – maybe even in your own garden shed or garage. Repurposing such items is another creative way to leave your mark not just on your garden but also on the planet.

sters



At left:

Blue Bayou – Elijah Blue *Festuca ovina glauca* (Bleu Fescue),
BLUE ZEPHYR™ *Brachyscome hybrid*, and Bluebird *Nemesia fruticans*

Outlined below at left:

Captivating – SUPERTUNIA® Sangria Charm *Petunia hybrid* and
'Sweet Caroline Light Green' *Ipomoea batatas*

Outlined below at right:

Cafe Au Lait – SUPERBELLS® Dreamsicle *Calibrachoa hybrid*,
GRACEFUL GRASSES® Toffee Twist *Carex fagelifera*,
DOLCE® Crème Brûlée *Heuchera hybrid*, and
Orange Symphony *Osteospermum hybrid*



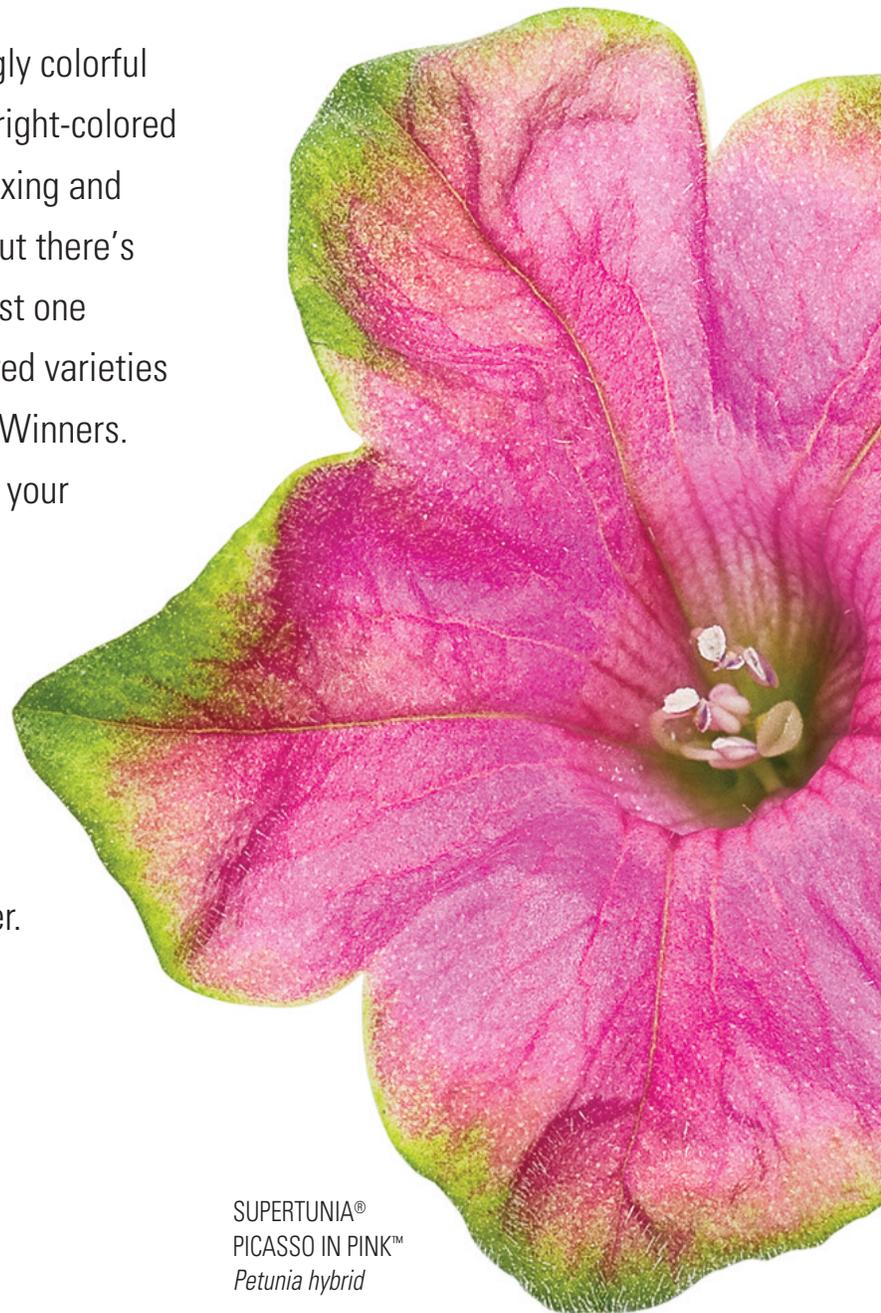
Bicolor Blooms

There are many ways to create strikingly colorful garden space. Filling a bed with one bright-colored plant can grab attention and so can mixing and matching varieties of different hues. But there's also a way to get both effects using just one unique plant, when you choose bicolored varieties like the ones shown here from Proven Winners. And for an even bigger effect combine your bicolored beauties with other plants. You can choose a second variety that brings out the less prominent color in the bicolor flower or consider a solid foliage plant that creates a strong accent or complement to your two-toned bloomer.

Other Proven Winners bicolor blooms:

SUPERBELLS® Cherry Star *Calibrachoa hybrid*

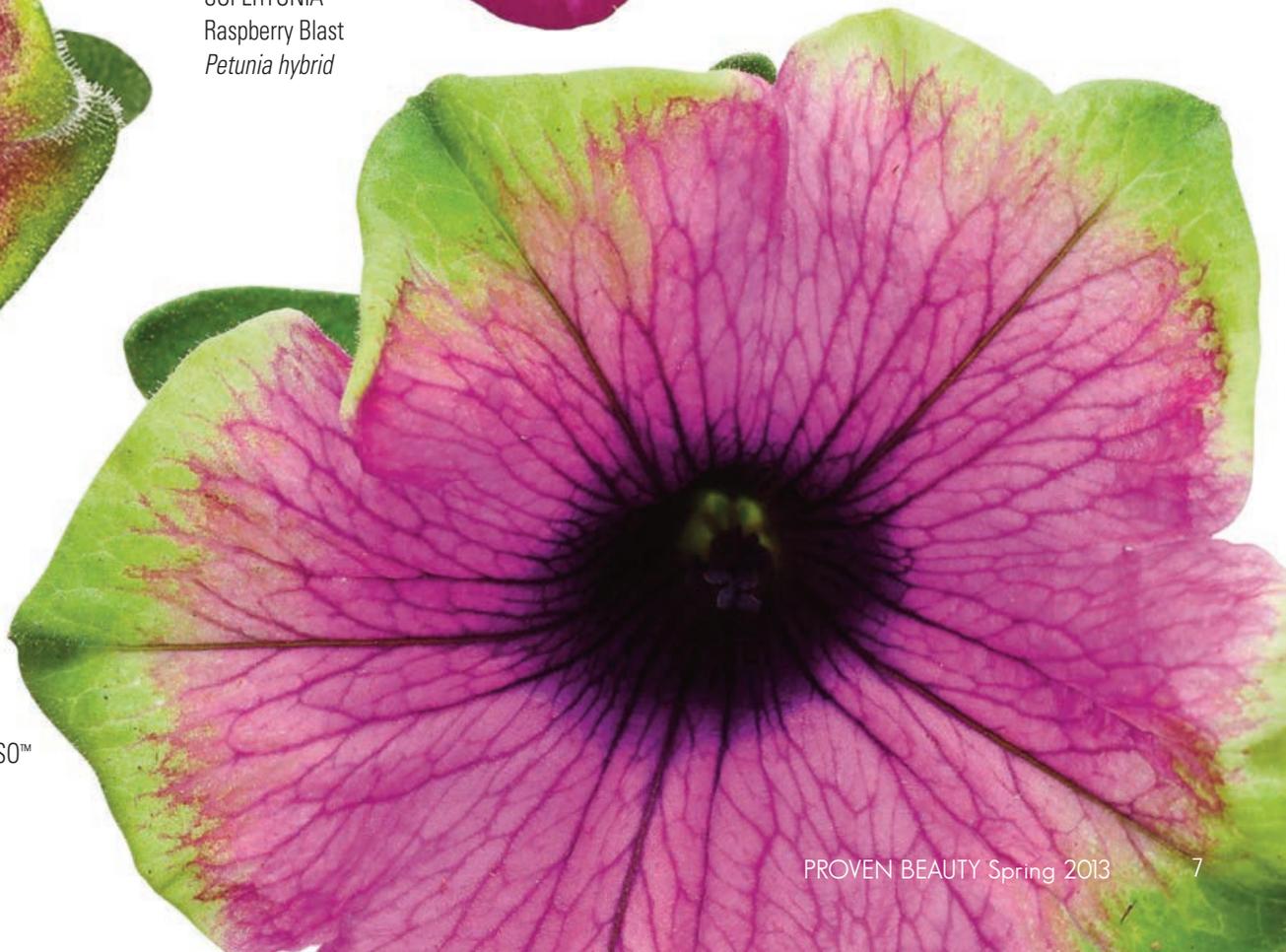
SUPERBELLS® Lemon Slice *Calibrachoa hybrid*



SUPERTUNIA®
PICASSO IN PINK™
Petunia hybrid



SUPERTUNIA®
Raspberry Blast
Petunia hybrid



SUPERTUNIA®
PRETTY MUCH PICASSO™
Petunia hybrid



Two for One

Bicolor blooms are extremely versatile. Here you see how Supertunia® Picasso in Pink™ sets the color palette for this container garden. Not only do the two-toned blooms of this petunia offer a strong contrast to Angelface® Blue, the differing habits of the two plants, one strong vertical accent and one mounding filler plant, create a strong design.

Above at top left: SUPERTUNIA® PICASSO IN PINK™ *Petunia hybrid* with ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia hybrid*

Above at bottom left: SUPERTUNIA® Raspberry Blast *Petunia hybrid*

Above at right:

Two sets of urns in rear, left and right: ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia hybrid*, SUPERBELLS® Cherry Blossom *Calibrachoa hybrid*, and ILLUSION® Emerald Lace *Ipomoea batatas*

Two matching urns at center: ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia hybrid*, and SUPERTUNIA® PICASSO IN PINK™ *Petunia hybrid*

Urn at left behind square planter: ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia hybrid*, and DIAMOND FROST® *Euphorbia hybrid*

Two square planters in foreground: SUPERTUNIA® PICASSO IN PINK™ *Petunia hybrid* with DIAMOND FROST® *Euphorbia hybrid* and ILLUSION® Emerald Lace *Ipomoea batatas*

Opposite, outlined left to right:

SUPERTUNIA® PICASSO IN PINK™ *Petunia hybrid* and SUPERTUNIA® PRETTY MUCH PICASSO® *Petunia hybrid*



D-I-Y LUMINARIA STRAIGHT FROM THE GARDEN

Illuminate a unique path through your garden or create a delicate, inviting light on your front walkway with lovely luminaria that you make yourself. Their soft glow and simple, garden-inspired design create just the right mood for that special occasion.

First, collect leaves and flowers with interesting patterns and colors that will press well. Next, assemble your materials: wax paper, Japanese washi tape, large books for pressing, battery-operated LED votive candles, and a craft knife. Follow the step-by-step instructions below to design and assemble your luminaria.

And remember, something this beautiful can't be made in an hour. You'll need to allow a few days for your flowers and leaves to dry and press. But the delicate light these natural beauties bring to your garden will be worth the wait.



STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Little Hands Leave Their Mark



Looking for a fun way to involve children in this spring's gardening activities? Here's a project you can do together that lets little ones leave their mark on this year's vegetable garden. Just take two parts adventure and mix it with one part art project and you have a lot more than colorful stone garden markers. You have proud artists and budding gardeners who have a "stake" in this year's garden.

Two parts adventure:

First, gather the stones. Depending on where you live, you may be able to find these on a nature walk, along a beach, or on a hiking trail. If your time is limited or you don't have easy access to a natural area, you could visit a garden center to purchase small, flat landscape stones suitable for painting. Second, spend time with the children talking about what types of vegetables you want to plant this year and let them help you shop for seeds.

One part art project:

All you need are rocks, a selection of acrylic paints, small artist paint brushes, and some creativity. For smaller hands, a variety of colored permanent markers could do the trick as well. Each rock can identify a specific vegetable in words, a drawing, or both. It is also a good idea to coat the rocks with a non-toxic all-purpose sealer when the paint is dry for extra weather resistance.

As the plants start to sprout, the adventure continues by allowing you to teach the children the tasks of watering, weeding, and harvesting the garden.



MORE STONE MARKER IDEAS

ASK THE EXPERT

PROVEN BEAUTY: What gives you the greatest inspiration for your gardening projects?

ERIN SCHANEN: I can think of few other activities that depend on all of the senses more than gardening, so when it comes to inspiration there is no substitute for experiencing a garden firsthand. I love garden tours and garden walks where you can really take it all in, from the perfect plant combination and the scent of the blooms to the sound of a water feature and the feel of a velvety leaf. I also draw a great amount of inspiration from gardening magazines and blogs, especially for container designs, which can be such a creative, no-holds-barred kind of gardening.

PB: What's the most important thing to remember when designing garden space?

ES: The biggest lesson I've learned about gardening is that planting en masse has much more impact. It is so much better to pick a few plants and plant them in drifts than to have 50 different single plants in the same area. And one of the most wonderful things about gardening is that it is forgiving. Very little, except for hardscape, is permanent. If you don't like where a plant is, you can always move it.

PB: What item in your garden shed can you not live without?

ES: If I'm in the garden, my hori hori soil knife is with me. It is truly a do-it-all tool. I use it to plant small pots of plants, cut twine or open bags, deadhead spent blooms, and dig trenches for planting seeds. And weeds (and one would assume any random garden prowlers) practically fall over in surrender when they see it coming.

PB: What steps do you take before you begin a new gardening project to ensure your success?

ES: Research is key to success in gardening, so I almost always go to the nursery with a list of plants that I've already researched to make sure they'll work in my garden.



Erin Schanen

was a gardener with a space problem, forced to contain her growing space to an apartment balcony, until 11 years ago when she and her husband found a small house with a big yard close to the shore of Lake Michigan in Belgium, Wisconsin. That yard, now filled with an array of gardens, is where you'll find her most early summer weekends. A master gardener, Erin also enjoys sailing, paddleboarding, and spending time with her husband and two Newfoundland dogs. She is an editor at *SAILING Magazine* and writes the blog, **The Impatient Gardener**, where she chronicles garden and home projects.

GREAT GARDEN DISCOVERIES



GARDENER'S DIGGING TOOL

In the past, I've used a wooden-handled hori hori, but this year I'm trying out the **Professional Gardener's Digging Tool**. I love that the handle is offset for more leverage, rounded to be more comfortable, and red so I won't lose it in the garden.



MORE QR CODE INFO
DOWNLOAD APP

For spur-of-the-moment shopping, I always have my phone with me to do a quick Internet search on a plant. Some plant tags now have **QR codes** that make researching plants on the spot so easy.



TUBTRUGS

I think most of the world has discovered **Tubtrugs** by now, but any gardener who doesn't have one is missing out. I use them for everything from mixing soil to weeding to transplanting.



PERFECT GARDEN HOSE

I've gone through my fair share of hoses, but I finally found one that I really like. The **Perfect Garden Hose** never, ever kinks and it has enough pressure to run all sorts of sprinklers and water wands.

Simpler is better in my world, at least when it comes to water timers (which I discovered are a must-have after last summer's drought). The **Dramm Colorstorm Water Timer** works like an egg timer: just turn the dial to the length of time you want.



COLORSTORM WATER TIMER

C O N T A I N E R S T Y L E



THRILLER • FILLER • SPILLER

NO-FAIL CONCEPT FOR 1-2-3 CONTAINER DESIGN

Three is never a crowd when it comes to container design. In fact, beautiful, thriving containers start with a three-step approach.

Step 1: Choose a thriller. These vertical plants add height and drama to your design. Plant the thriller in the back of the container if it will be seen from one side only or in the center if it will be viewed from all sides.

Step 2: Grab some beautiful fillers. Plant rounded, mounded plants around the base of a centered thriller or in front of the thriller if it's in the back of the container.

Step 3: Add your spiller plants. These trailing varieties should be planted along the edge of the container either all the way around or just in the front, depending on the placement of the thriller.

For ideas on which plants make the best thrillers, fillers, and spillers, see pages 16 and 17 and visit the links below.

MORE THRILLER,
FILLER, SPILLER INFO

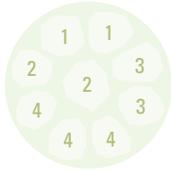
P. ALLEN SMITH VIDEO
ON CONTAINER DESIGN

Above: **Mulberry Point** – ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia hybrid* (thriller), SUPERTUNIA® Bordeaux *Petunia hybrid* (filler), and ILLUSION® Emerald Lace *Ipomoea batatas* (spiller)
Opposite: **Sausalito Sunset** – ANGELFACE® White *Angelonia hybrid* (thriller), SUPERBELLS® Pink *Calibrachoa hybrid* (filler), and 'Goldilocks' *Lysimachia* (spiller)





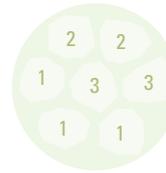
Tapestry –



- 1 ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia hybrid* (thriller)
- 2 ILLUSION® Midnight Lace *Ipomoea batatas* (spiller)
- 3 COLORBLAZE® Dipt in Wine *Solenostemon scutellarioides* (Coleus) (filler)
- 4 SNOWSTORM® Pink *Sutera hybrid* (spiller)



All Aglow –



- 1 GOLDILOCKS ROCKS® *Bidens hybrid* (spiller)
- 2 GRACEFUL GRASSES® BLUE MOHAWK™ *Juncus inflexus* (thriller)
- 3 COLORBLAZE® ALLIGATOR TEARS™ *Solenostemon scutellarioides* (Coleus) (filler)



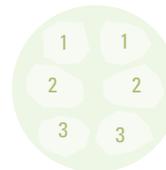
Break of Dawn –



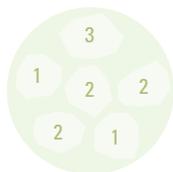
- 1 SUPERBELLS® Cherry Blossom *Calibrachoa hybrid* (spiller)
- 2 DIAMOND FROST® *Euphorbia hybrid* (filler)
- 3 FLYING COLORS® Antique Trailing Rose *Diascia hybrid* (filler)
- 4 GRACEFUL GRASSES® Purple Fountain Grass *Pennisetum setaceum* (thriller)



Chestnut Hill –

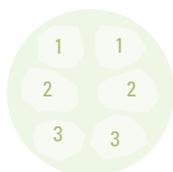


- 1 SUPERBELLS® Peach *Calibrachoa hybrid* (spiller)
- 2 GRACEFUL GRASSES® Purple Fountain Grass *Pennisetum setaceum* (thriller)
- 3 COLORBLAZE® 'Sedona' *Solenostemon scutellarioides* (Coleus) (filler)



Ruby Slippers –

- 1 Sweet Caroline Raven *Ipomoea batatas* (spiller)
- 2 SUNSATIA® Cranberry *Nemesia hybrid* (filler)
- 3 GRACEFUL GRASSES® VERTIGO®
Pennisetum purpureum (thriller)



Lazy Days –

- 1 ANGELFACE® Dark Violet *Angelonia hybrid* (thriller)
- 2 SUPERTUNIA® Mini Blue *Petunia hybrid* (filler)
- 3 SNOWSTORM® GIANT SNOWFLAKE™
Sutera hybrid (spiller)

THRILLER PLANTS

- Angelface® *Angelonia*
- Butterfly *Argyranthemum*
- Señorita Rosalita and Señorita Blanca *Cleome*
- Graceful Grasses®
- Stratosphere™/Karalee® *Gaura*
- Small, compact shrubs

FILLER PLANTS

- Superbells® *Calibrachoa*
- Flirtation®/Flying Colors® *Diascia*
- Blue My Mind™ *Evolvulus*
- Diamond Frost® *Euphorbia*
- Luscious® *Lantana*
- Sunsatia®/Innocence® *Nemesia*
- Infinity® *New Guinea Impatiens*
- Soprano®/Symphony *Osteospermum*
- Charmed® *Oxalis*
- Supertunia® *Petunia*
- Intensia® *Phlox*
- ColorBlaze® *Solenostemon* (Coleus)

SPILLER PLANTS

- Goldilocks Rocks® *Bidens*
- Flambe® Yellow *Chrysocephalum*
- Illusion® *Ipomoea* (Sweet Potato Vine)
- Sweet Caroline *Ipomoea* (Sweet Potato Vine)
- New Wonder®/Whirlwind® *Scaevola*
- Snowstorm® *Sutera* (Bacopa)
- Catalina®/Summer Wave® *Torenia*
- Superbena®/Tukana® *Verbena*

COOL, CALM, & COLLECTED

Gardening is an activity that relieves stress. But there's also a garden plant that has a history of creating calm. Lavender, with its pleasing scent and healing properties, has long been a popular skin soother, tension reliever, and aromatherapy agent. With anti-inflammatory and analgesic benefits, lavender oil can be effective on bruises, burns, and other skin irritations. And as a member of the mint family, the plant also makes a good addition to teas, lemonades, desserts, and a variety of other recipes.



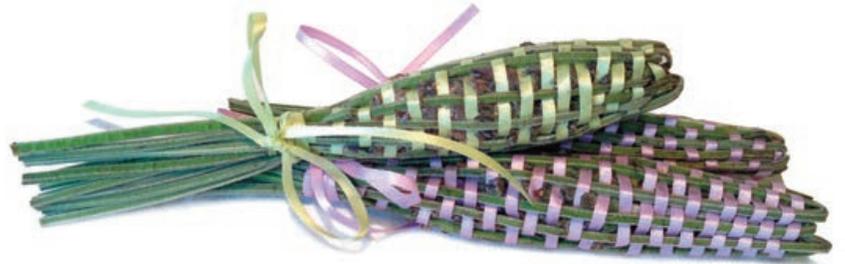
With so many benefits, lavender is a great addition to your medicine cabinet and your garden. Collect fresh lavender to create these decorative wands and enjoy the sweet fragrance of this delightful plant for yourself. Or match them with a bottle of lavender oil and soap and put together a small spa gift for a friend. For complete instructions on designing these lavender wands, [click here](#).



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3

LAVENDER FOR SKIN CARE

LAVENDER RECIPES

LAVENDER AS AROMATHERAPY

The information provided here is for educational purposes only. It has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration and is not intended to cure, treat, prevent, or diagnose any disease or condition.

The Dirt on Growing Perennials in Containers

Do you have limited space, limited time, and a limited budget for garden design? Then growing small-scale perennials in containers may be your answer. The easy maintenance and versatility of these plants add color, texture, and beauty to your outdoor space. Plus, they return year after year, so you aren't buying all new plants every spring. Six of the newest perennials from Proven Winners, shown here, are among the many exceptional choices available. For more information about container gardening with perennials, click the link below.

CONTAINER GARDENING
WITH PERENNIALS

Other small-scale
Proven Winners perennials –
perfect for container gardening:

'Tuscan Sun' *Heliopsis*
'Autumn Frost' *Hosta*
'Wheee!' *Hosta*,
DAISY MAY® *Leucanthemum*
'Pure Joy' *Sedum*,
'Sweet Lullaby' *Veronica*



'Pardon My Purple' *Monarda didyma*

'Pardon My Pink'
Monarda didyma



FRUIT PUNCH™
'Apple Slice' *Dianthus*



FRUIT PUNCH™
'Black Cherry Wild' *Dianthus*



FRUIT PUNCH™
'Coconut Punch' *Dianthus*



FRUIT PUNCH™
'Pomegranate Kiss' *Dianthus*



LO & BEHOLD® 'Blue Chip'
Buddleia (Butterfly Bush)



SONIC BLOOM™ Pink *Weigela florida*



'American Pillar'
Thuja occidentalis (Arborvitae)

NEED TO FEED?

Shrubs are some of the most tolerant, low-maintenance plants to grace the garden, but even the hardiest growers benefit from some extra vitamins and minerals. Here are some tips to guide you in feeding your flowering shrubs.

When?

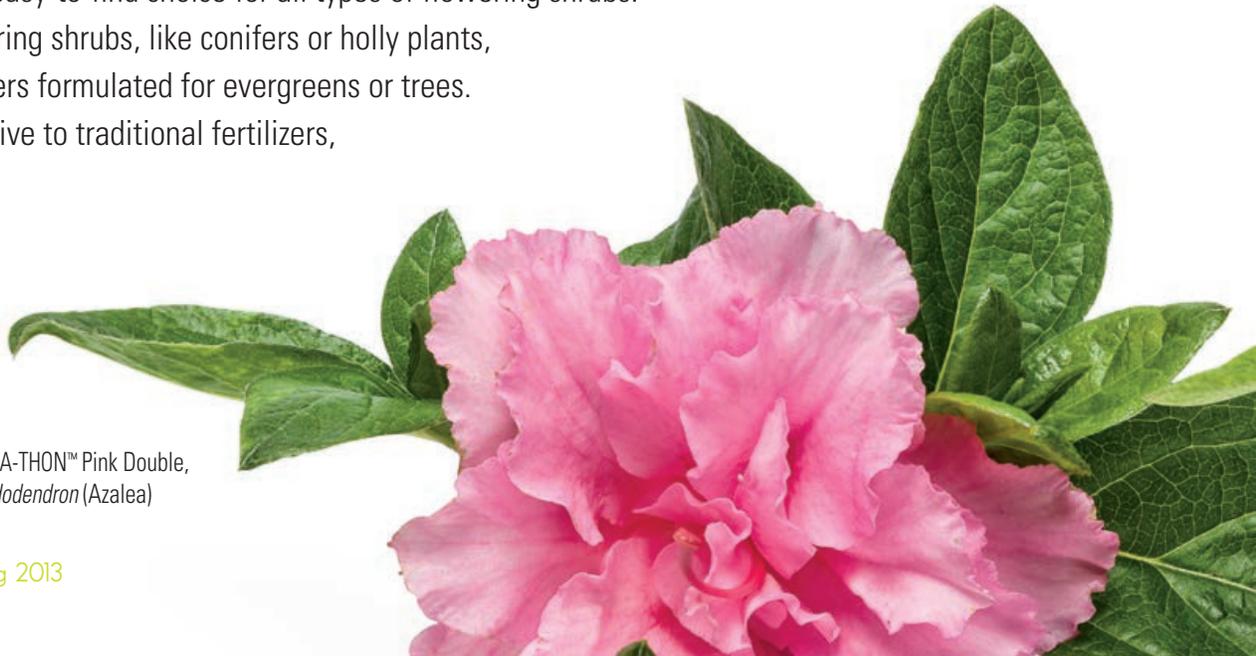
An annual spring application is best. Be sure there is no snow on the ground before you apply fertilizer. It's okay if it snows again after the application, but you want to apply the fertilizer directly to the soil for best results. Also wait until the buds on the stems begin to swell. That's a sign that the shrub has begun to grow so its roots can take up the fertilizer you've applied, preventing run-off and waste.

What?

The best fertilizers for flowering shrubs are granular. They weather gradually, providing long-lasting nutrition during the active growth period. Granular rose fertilizers make an excellent, easy-to-find choice for all types of flowering shrubs.

For non-flowering shrubs, like conifers or holly plants, opt for fertilizers formulated for evergreens or trees.

As an alternative to traditional fertilizers,



Left to right: BLOOM-A-THON™ Pink Double,
Red and White *Rhododendron* (Azalea)



BLUE CHIFFON™ *Hibiscus syriacus*
(Rose of Sharon)



LAVENDER CHIFFON™ *Hibiscus syriacus*
(Rose of Sharon)



CASTLE SPIRE® *Ilex x meservae*
(Blue Holly)

apply a 2-inch layer of compost around the root zones. This will make nutrients that are already in the soil more available for plant use, will increase water retention, and will help maintain good growing temperatures.

How?

You can broadcast the fertilizer over the entire bed or carefully apply a ring of it on the outer perimeter of the plant's stems. Always apply according to package directions. It's best to underapply a bit rather than overapply to ensure strong flowering, less pollution, and efficient use of resources. For best results, scratch fertilizer lightly into the surface and top with a little mulch to prevent run off.



LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION? GET IT FOR FREE.



CLICK HERE
TO ORDER YOURS

With 36 pages of colorful plants and creative ideas, you'll find inspiration to guide your gardening for the upcoming season, whether your garden is a small urban balcony or an expansive country retreat. Plus, this FREE *Gardener's Idea Book* doesn't just show you, it teaches you, too, with container recipes, step-by-step makeover instructions, and tips for success.



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