Recipe Card for the Container Design of the Month

November

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Illiam State Portland Nursery

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Steps:

- 1. Fill your container 2/3 of the way with all-purpose Potting Soil such as E.B. Stone Edna's Best.
- 2. Mix some fertilizer into the soil in the container. We have always had exceptional results with *E.B. Stone Sure Start* and *Osmocote*.
- 3. Moistening the soil so that it is damp is an important step if your potting soil is old or on the dry side. Most fresh bags of soil should take up water evenly when you water the plants.
- 4. Plant your container. It helps to gently loosen the root of each plant to enhance root development.
- 5. Fill the nooks and crannies with moist potting soil.
- 6. Water your newly planted container thoroughly and enjoy!

Substitutions:

Sometimes you cannot find the exact cultivated variety we have listed above. Luckily there are substitutions that will offer a similar or even preferred look. Camellias and *Viburnum bodnantense* provide lovely winter blooms. *Carex testacea* or 'Rekoku Sunrise' are lovely evergreen spikey additions.

Care and Maintenance:

The plants in this container will thrive in part sun (at least 6 hours) and look great into next year. The Phormiums are a bit tender to cold, so the container may need protection in extreme weather. To create more room in the spring, the *Illicum* can be planted in the shade garden and the container moved to a full sun position. There are several herbs in this container which could also be planted in the garden or other pots in the spring. Water thoroughly when the top inch of soil is dry. Top dress and gently scratch into the surface some granular all-purpose fertilizer in spring. Over the years all the plants will need to be separated and repotted or planted.