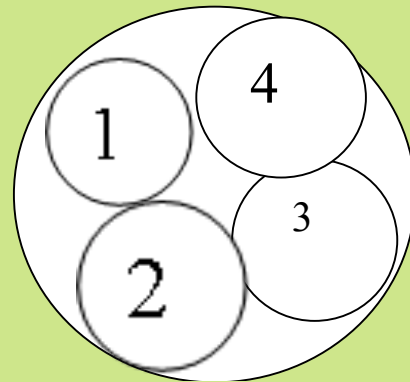


Recipe Card for the
Container Design of the Month
Designed by Katie Gwynn at Portland Nursery

December

Design of the Month



Holiday Sparkle

1. *Helleborus 'Jonas'*
2. *Cyclamen 'Silverheart White'*
3. Dusty Miller
4. *Ophiopogon 'Nigrescens'*
5. Red accents available at 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. Many different Hellebores bloom white in time for Christmas. If Cyclamen may not succeed in your spot, try a white pansy, or some sprigs of greenery pushed into the soil.

Care and Maintenance:

Don't let pots on a covered porch completely dry out, especially just before a cold snap. In winter, light requirements are not so important, but by late next spring, the Dusty Miller will need a sunny spot, and the other 3 plants a partly shaded one. The cyclamen is best suited to a covered porch where it will receive protection from extreme temperatures and constant rain. The Hellebore, Ophiopogon, and Dusty Miller are easy to grow perennials here in the Northwest that reliably look good in December.