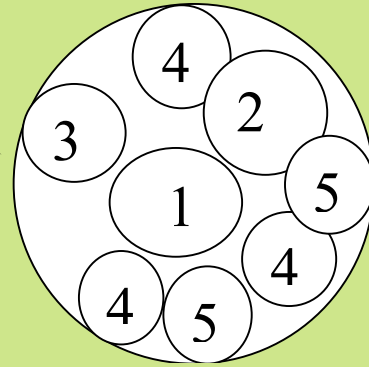


Container Design of the Month
Designed by Laura Altvater at Portland Nursery

February

Design of the Month



Monte's Dark Beauty

1. *Helleborus x E.* 'Monte Cristo'
2. *Heuchera* 'Dark Secret'
3. *Cyrtomium falcatum*
4. *Lonicera n.* 'Lemon Beauty'
5. Primrose

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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*.
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.

Care and Maintenance:

The plants in this container will thrive with morning sun and afternoon shade. The Primulas and Hellebore will bloom through April or later. Many of the plants are evergreen and look great all winter and into next spring. Water when the top two inches of soil is dry. Top dress with an all-purpose fertilizer in late April. Replace the primulas with summer blooming annuals.