

# garden

By Roger Myers

Roger Myers is the President and Founder of American Beauty Landscaping. Established in 1979, ABL is the Valley's industry leader with more than 100 national, state and local awards to its landscape design and build credit.



## Let Your Pot, Go To Perennials



Petunias, coleus and other annuals are great container plants, but what about Hosta, Astilbe, ferns, or ornamental grass or coneflower?

Perennials can add a whole new feel to your container plantings. Here are some tips to make them work for you:

The container here is a mix of perennials and annuals. Artemisa, Potato Vine, and Sedum offer a terrific variety of color and texture. It is a more

subdued arrangement but quite contemporary and elegant. A solid black ceramic container was chosen to suggest the formal theme. Container gardens should be chosen to reflect the architecture around them. You wouldn't expect to find an English Cottage garden potted wheel-barrel in front of a contemporary ranch.

Choose plants with colorful leaves or strong forms, like Coral Bells, curling sedge, which looks good for long time without blooming. Ferns and grasses are great center pieces (instead of the usual spike) and they grow at a modest pace.



After you've chosen your long term foliage plants, think about flowering plants for extra color. Most perennials don't bloom as long as annuals, so you may want to rotate plants out as they fade.

Don't be disappointed if your containers do not look fabulous all year. They will have seasonal interest quit like your gardens, and when they've passed their prime – exchange some or start over from scratch.



Fall pots can be so spectacular, adding warmth and splashes of color at your door. Mums, Aster, Kale, Cabbage, grasses, varieties of ivy can be really beautiful with a little creativity!

Perennials usually stay a little bit smaller when in a container, so take that into account as your planning. The possibilities for perennial containers are endless. Don't be afraid to experiment with unusual combinations.

If you love gardening, join the club. More Americans engage in gardening than in any other hobby. It's therapeutic – sometimes frustrating, but one of the most rewarding endeavors you will take part in! Good luck and good gardening! -- Roger A. Myers, CEO, American Beauty Landscaping.