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Container Gardens For Florida (Florida Gardening)



Synopsis

When author Pamela Crawford first started writing her newest book, she expected it to be short, about 100 pages or so. After all, she pondered, how many different ways can you arrange plants in a pot? But, as she began her research, the book grew into a major 368-page reference book with a companion DVD movie! Obviously, there was a lot more to container gardening than she had originally thought! This project was begun to accomplish three goals. Ms. Crawford's first goal was to push the limits of container design - take it farther than she had ever seen it done in Florida. To accomplish this formidable task, she hit the road, traveling to areas where she knew container design was quite advanced. She ended up researching this project in Manhattan, the Hamptons, Long Island, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Vancouver. Then, she searched Florida and spent time with experts who were doing great container work, like the staff at Universal Studios in Orlando and Sanchez and Maddux, landscape architects in Palm Beach. The designs shown in this book evolved from these experiences and illustrate a variety of styles of container gardening - from sleek, sophisticated interior containers (152-159) to country garden containers (pages 36-37). She spent time searching out the best suppliers for both plants and containers and brought many of their products to Florida to test them in the tough southern climate. Ms. Crawford and her assistants, Barbara Hadsell and Miguel Olivares, had fun testing over 10,000 plants and hundreds of containers in her gardens in Lake Worth. "We let our imaginations run wild with all these design ideas, plants, and spectacular pots. We are fortunate to have enough space to allow each container arrangement to grow to its maturity. This made it possible for us to report on its performance to you," said Ms. Crawford. Her second goal was to develop a design system that is easy to understand for beginners. She shared that her first tries with gardening in containers produces a lot of problems as she learned how to design and plant containers from books. She bought book after book, and even after following their instructions over and over again, most of the projects she attempted simply failed. It was at that point Ms. Crawford bought a video that taught her more in thirty minutes than she had learned in the previous ten years. At that moment, she knew that her book on container gardening had to have an accompanying DVD movie to make the learning process easy. She encourages her readers to "watch the DVD movie (sold separately) for thirty minutes and skim chapters 1, 2, and 15 in this book (include chapter 4 if you are ready to try a hanging basket). You will be ready to design and plant container gardens like the pros in no time at all!" The third goal of this book was to create a major reference work that people would keep for many years and refer to whenever they have a question about container gardening. So, Ms. Crawford made sure the book covered many different aspects of container

gardening - like window boxes, wall pots, hanging baskets, diverse containers (for sun, salt, wind, shade, low water), planting and maintaining orchids, and how to use containers in the landscape. The book also covers many technical aspects of container gardening, like watering systems, soil, and fertilizer. The DVD movie is also a reference work. It covers container design basics plus three planting demos - a bowl, a hanging basket, and the planting and care of an orchid. Since the planting demos contain a lot of information, gardeners will benefit from re-watching them from time to time. The DVD movie is packaged in a box that fits right next to the book on a bookshelf. Researching this book opened up a whole new world to the author about the fun and satisfaction of container gardening. She comments that "I am so happy to share this great hobby with all of my Florida friends."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pamela Crawford has a BA from Vanderbilt University and a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture from Florida International University, where she recently received the prestigious "Torch Award" as an outstanding alumnus from the School of Architecture. She has designed 1500 gardens for residences and country clubs. Her container designs have been featured on the cover of Better Homes and Gardens publications. She has also been featured on the Fine Living Network as a container garden expert. Pamela has written four books.

Great book lots of information...still have to get to use it..

Bought it for my husband and he loves it!

Nice book. I'm only doing containers this year so this was a big help on which plants to use in a container in SW Florida.

My favorite books for Florida gardening are ALL hers! They are my gardening bibles. Easy Garden for South Florida and Best Garden Color for Florida are absolutely her best two books for outdoor gardeners in FL. I don't use this one as much, but if you love container gardening, it's VERY organized, lots of great color pics and her usual easy-to read style. I wish the Easy Garden and Best Garden Color books were combined into one large book, because I always use both at the same time, but that's the way she wrote them. maybe she'll combine them some day!

My FIL could not put this book down after he got it for Christmas, needless to say he loves it!

very inspirational

I live in South Florida, and found that many times when I filled my planters, within months the plants or flowers had died. Thanks to this wonderful book, I now know what to get for the lighting, the season, and more. I now have beautiful planters at my home.

This book and the accompanying DVD are easy to understand and instructions are easy to follow. The author is honest and willing to share her ideas for making and using containers for plants to enhance a garden. She relates well with persons not as versed as she is in creating a beautiful garden space. This appealed to me as I am a novice Florida gardener.

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