

The *Milton Canadian Champion*, in collaboration with the Milton & District Horticultural Society, invites readers to try their hand at creating a Canada 150 garden or potted arrangement. Don't have a green thumb? Not to worry. These step-by-step instructions will help you sprout a colourful arrangement that is sure to be the envy of your neighbours.



1

SET UP YOUR POT

Be it large or small, container gardens can add a whole new dimension to your property. Before you begin, set up your pot where it will stay. Upon completion, it will be heavy and a chore to move.



FILL THE POT

With your container in place, fill the pot with the potting soil of your choice. Avoid the use of garden soil or triple mix, as they do not drain as freely when placed in a container. You'll want to look for potting soil specially formulated for containers.



2

WATER THE POT

Before you begin planting, give the soil in your container a tall drink of water. You'll also want to hydrate the plants that will fill your container before beginning the potting process.



4

UNPOT CENTRE PLANT

Your tall eye-catching plant will be the focal point of your arrangement. Unpot your centre plant – cannas, perennial grasses, a small evergreen or rose are good options – and tease apart its roots. Loosening balled up roots provides the plant an opportunity to reach deep into the soil, anchoring it in the pot.



7

ADD DECORATIONS

You can jazz up your arrangement with themed decorations, like our nation's flag, red and white pinwheels or any other garden ornament that tickles your fancy. Once you've added the finishing touches, sit back and enjoy your blooming creation.



5

PLANT YOUR PLANTS

After teasing its roots, plant your centre plant and firm the soil around it. Next, plant low-growing flowering or foliage plants to fill the middle of the pot. At the edge, plant cascading greenery that will likely spill over the pot and carry the planting toward the ground. You can tuck the greenery in to cover up any earth.



WATER AND FERTILIZE

With your arrangement firmly planted in a container, give it another good sprinkle. Then, add a slow-release fertilizer. Slow-release fertilizer lasts three months or so, which allows forgetful gardeners to still enjoy a healthy, colourful display.

6



ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

The *Milton Canadian Champion* wants to see how your garden grows. We're inviting readers who have created a Canada 150-themed lawn or container garden to snap a photo and enter it in our photo contest for a chance to win some great prizes. Flip to page 36 for more on the photo contest.

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