

Tips For Outdoor Planters

LANSING, MI — When choosing plants for your outdoor container, consider the following:

- **Light** — Most flowers are sun-lovers. If you're decorating a shady spot, try impatiens, begonias, coleus, browallia, fuchsia or torenia. Check plant care tags and buy with your location in mind-or rotate containers to a sunny spot as suggested above.

- **Height** — Put tall plants in the center of containers viewed from all sides, or the rear of ones viewed from one side only. Use shorter plants in the middle and low or trailing varieties at the edge.

- **Distance** — One-color-one-variety planters make a dramatic showing even when viewed from afar. Combination plantings of several different varieties make for up-

close interest. When planting your container, follow these tips:

- Use a soilless planting medium. Garden soil is too heavy for containers and may carry insects and disease.

- Water before planting. Mix until the soil is uniformly moist and filled to about a half-inch of the pot rim.

- Check watering needs daily. Containers dry faster than garden beds.

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 18, 1991-B13

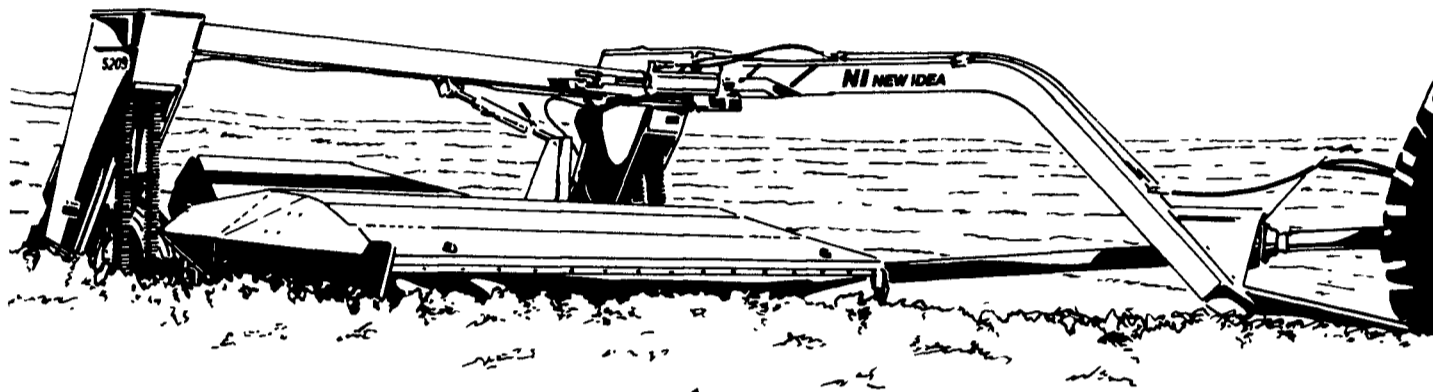
- Turn planters for symmetrical growth. Plants "lean" toward the light. Keep the sunny side from outgrowing the shady side by turning pots periodically.

- Fertilize lightly but frequently. Use a water soluble plant food according to label directions. Make sure it is well diluted or it may "burn" your plants.

Time to start casting about for

the perfect planter for your non-yard garden spot. Your local garden center has loads of alternatives—those that are decorative on their own and others that are just the right size to fit into that wicker chair without a seat, that brass umbrella stand, that wooden apple crate... You know what it is; plant it!

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