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Planters with Panache

By Kathy LaLiberte

Imagine if your pots and planters always looked fabulous. "Wow!" your friends would say to one another, "How does she do it?"

Gone are the days when you could feel good about just picking up a couple red geraniums and some pink wax begonias. The pressure is on. Your pots and planters need panache!

So this spring, before you head out to buy plants for your porch, deck or patio, learn what it takes to create planters with style.

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How to Select Tomato Plants

From North to South, and coast to coast, tomatoes are consistently the most popular vegetable in American gardens. But for most gardeners, just any old tomato won't do.

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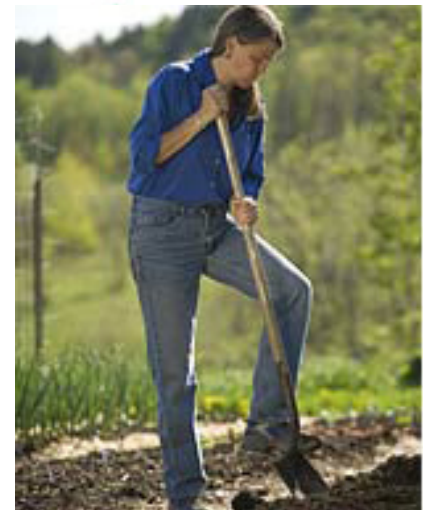
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Why I Garden Organically

By Kathy LaLiberte

When I started growing vegetables back in the mid-1970s, I learned everything I knew from reading books by Helen and Scott Nearing, Dick Raymond and J.I. Rodale. I didn't know many other people who gardened, so I just followed the directions. I made a compost pile, hauled buckets of manure from a local farm and used organic fertilizer. My garden thrived and I was hooked. After more than 25 years, I *still* garden organically.

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Fruits for First-time Gardeners

The grow-your-own movement is stronger than it's been in about 60 years, judging by the way vegetable seeds, onion sets, and seed potatoes are flying off the racks as novice gardeners prepare to grow some of their own food for the first time. Their interest goes beyond vegetables, however. At our Vermont stores — and I suspect across the nation — the demand for fruit plants is up sharply, too. Some fruits are easy to grow and integrate into the landscape and can even be grown in containers. Strawberries and blueberries are especially suitable for home production and first-time gardeners.

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