

SUN & SHADE * EYE-POPPING COMBOS * POTSCAPING

Country Almanac® #166

Container Gardens

2013

**FUN
PLANTERS
FROM JUNK
FINDS**

**263
COLORFUL
DISPLAYS**

**ADD A
PUNCH
OF WOW!
GRASSES &
FOLIAGE**

**Which Plants
Work Best?
GARDEN OASIS
POTS OF EDIBLES
SUCCULENTS 101**

\$9.95

Display until July 29, 2013



SERENE & GREEN IN THE CITY

ESCAPE THE HECTIC PACE OF URBAN LIFE WITH YOUR OWN
EVERYDAY OUTDOOR OASIS.

photos by JERRY PAVIA words by KIMBER MITCHELL

ROOM TO GROW

Garden structures such as pergolas lend a welcome sense of enclosure within the outdoors, creating the feel of a fresh-air room. Enveloped in a tranquil palette of potted evergreen and deciduous trees such as *Acer palmatum* 'Garnet' at left, this screened version offers a cozy enclave for alfresco gatherings while providing privacy from neighbors.



GREEN THUMBS UP!

Spotlight the beautiful forms of trees and shrubs. Good candidates include boxwood, Japanese maples, and the edible charm of dwarf citrus trees.



REPEAT PERFORMANCE

ABOVE Unify the look of your outdoor haven by weaving a single predominant color throughout it. The calming presence of white enlightens this deck. **LEFT** Cultivate a sense of rhythm within your plantings by repeating the same plant scheme in multiple containers. This trio of planters accentuates a deck's perimeter with a vivacious pattern of primroses.

Nestled on rooftops or in small yards and balconies, urban gardens can host a versatile array of plants. Choose containers, plants, and furnishings that reflect the surroundings and stand up to the elements. Plan your planting palette by considering whether your site is sunny or shaded, windy or sheltered. Use trellises or tiered plant stands, which maximize visual impact within a small footprint.



SERENE IN GREEN

ABOVE Soften concrete surfaces with a lush wall of greenery. Arborvitae, which grows up to 60" tall, is an ideal choice because it forms a year-round screen while serving as a noise barrier. **LEFT** Foliage takes center stage in this dashing duo. Spiky mounds of drought-tolerant blue fescue delight throughout the seasons—a bonus for sunny rooftop gardens.



Just because you live in the city doesn't mean you can't enjoy the joys of a garden.



SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS

ABOVE AND BELOW Potted in a series of clean-lined containers that echo the geometry of their surroundings, ornamental grasses cleverly conceal the perimeter of a rooftop. Easy to grow and maintain, these graceful growers thrive in a variety of conditions and boast an array of textures. **LEFT** Screen out unsightly city views with a flourishing hedge of bamboo. This sun lover will grow quickly, forming a natural privacy fence.





COLORFUL COMPANIONS

TOP AND ABOVE Transform a bland balcony into a gracious getaway with weather-resistant outdoor furniture and captivating container gardens. Mix pots of different shapes or sizes but keep their color constant to avoid a busy look, which can make a small space look even smaller. **RIGHT** Pretty in pink and green, showy caladium and Kong coleus prove that foliage can be just as mesmerizing as blooms.

