

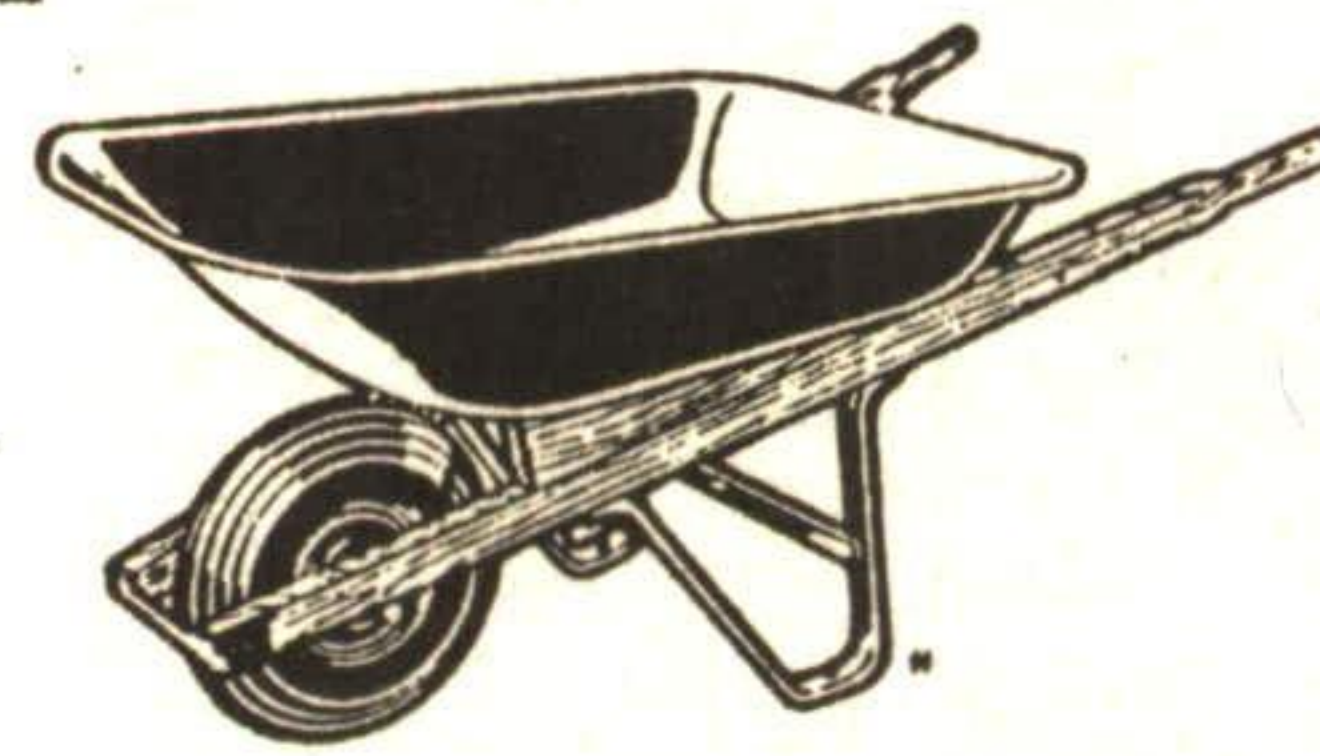
## DOMINION GARDENS

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## Boxes, Tubs And Baskets

Whether you have a green thumb or simply want to brighten up a small piece of your yard, now is the time to act.

With just a little preparation you can create patterns of color and foliage using window boxes, tubs and hanging baskets.

The simple, yet clever trick is to group plants of different heights - tall plants to give display depth and shorter ones to hide any bare compost. Trailing plants can cascade down the sides.

Many people create miniature herb gardens in tubs and containers, which are pleasurable to look at and provide a supply of fresh herbs.

Of course, cramming plants into compact spaces requires good preparation followed by good care because they will be competing for water and nutrients.

Choose a rich compost that will hold moisture or one that is specifically for container growing.

If you are using tubs, punch out or clear drain holes and lay broken pieces of pots over the holes. This will prevent soil from spilling through but will allow water to escape.

Top these with at least an inch of coarse material such as sand, shingle or gravel to further enhance drainage and prevent water gathering and rotting your container.

Fill and firm down a layer of compost to within three to four inches of the rim before planting, starting with the large specimen-type plants before filling in the edges with smaller varieties.

Firm the plants in place as you go, using fresh compost to build up around them so the rim ends will be an inch above the soil when

finished.

Hanging baskets need different treatment to prevent them from drying out when above ground level. Line the baskets with moss or a black polyethylene sheet with holes cut for drainage. Be sure to keep a close eye on the soil moisture in your containers and especially hanging baskets. Each should receive adequate moisture - it only takes a few hours on hot summer days to ruin your hard work.



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