

# CONTAINER GARDENING

*Attracting birds using native forbs and sedges*



Photo from Wild Ones, Green Bay, WI

## PLANNING YOUR PLANTER

### SELECT & STUDY YOUR SITE

What exposure does the site have? (Sun, shade, part sun/shade)

### SELECT YOUR CONTAINERS

You can use several sizes in a grouping. Make sure containers have a drainage hole.

### DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF PLANTS

10-12" pots = 4 to 6 plants  
20" pot = 8-12 plants

### USE GOOD POTTING SOIL MIX

The soil needs to be appropriate for your plant specifications.

## SOME DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

### CHOOSE YOUR COLOR SCHEME

**Monochromatic:** all shades of one color; e.g. orange, red orange, yellow orange

**Complementary:** 2 colors on opposite sides of the color wheel  
e.g.: violet and yellow, or blue and orange

**Polychromatic:** a blend of many colors

Extra Tip: Select annuals as accent plants such as Coleus to add color or work as fillers

### PLAYING WITH HEIGHT

A grass or sedge can work as a great background for your creation and provide seed for birds in the fall. Try some of these designs:

1. Use tallest plants or grass as background at one edge of the plant, then gradually add plants in the front that get shorter and shorter
2. Use tallest plants or grass in the center and circle it gradually with short and shorter plants with shortest at the edge of the planter.

Try some of these for height: June grass: 2-3', Little blue stem: 2=3', Brown fox sedge 2-3', Porcupine sedge 2-3'