



Gardening by the Moon

April 2025

SAVE THE DATE

Shadow Creek HOA Landscape Seminar

Thursday, May 15th @ 7 PM

Prizes included!

Thriller, Filler, and Spiller Container Plantings

By Dr. Moon

As a gardener, I love having flowering plants in my landscape, and I have found that container plantings are an excellent way to introduce color into a more controlled setting. Container plantings can provide interest and color throughout the year. To be most effective, containers should utilize the thriller, filler, and spiller technique for planting. Additionally, containers need good drainage and organic potting soil. Selecting the right container

size for your plants and ensuring they have enough space to grow and thrive is important. Once you have that, let your imagination guide you when using the following plants in your container garden.

Thriller Plants – These plants elevate the pot, adding drama and a vertical focal point. They can include flowering plants, foliage, ornamental grasses, or shrubs and should be positioned in the center of the container or on one side if the container is intended to be viewed from that side. Examples of thrillers are hibiscus, purple fountain grass, and foxtail fern.

Filler Plants – These plants fill in around the center planting. They are shorter in height, have rounded or mounded growth, and can come in several varieties depending on the size of the container. These plants are placed halfway between the edge of the container and the thriller planting. Examples of filler plants include caladiums, scaevola, periwinkle, and angelonia.

Spiller Plants – These trailing plants grow over the edges of the container, adding depth and interest. They are placed around the perimeter of the container and can consist of various types depending on its size. Examples of spillers include potato vine, creeping Jenny, trailing lantana, and golden oregano.



Some examples of container plantings for summer are shown above. Use BioSol fertilizer to fertilize your containers. This organic fertilizer provides essential nutrients to your plants, promoting healthy growth and vibrant blooms. Don't hesitate to experiment with various combinations of plants.

If one plant dies, it's easy to replace it with another plant without replanting the entire container.

There's no need to feel intimidated by container gardening. With a little effort, you can create a beautiful container garden. Just dive in and experiment with the Thriller, Filler, Spiller technique. It's a proven method that's sure to lead to success in your container gardening endeavors.



Fire Ant Control Using the Texas Two-Step Method



Fire ants become active this time of year when temperatures reach 65 degrees and during heavy rain to protect their nests. Once temperatures rise, the ants build nests, forage for food, and produce young. Purchase your control materials now, watch for the first signs of activity, and then use the Texas Two Step to control them.

APPLY BAIT: The first step involves applying a product containing a food source and an insecticide. Spread the bait evenly across the yard, allowing worker ants to transport it back to their mounds. Organic baits, such as *Safer Brand Fire Ant Bait* and *Green Light Fire Ant Control with Conserve*, are available on the market, or you can choose *Amdro Ant Bait* or *Advion Ant Bait*.

APPLY MOUND TREATMENT: The second step consists of treating any active mounds individually by drenching them with organic products like *Safer Brand Fire Ant Mound Drench* or *Citrex Fire Ant Killer*, or by using other insecticide mound treatments such as *Ortho Fire Ant Killer*. You can find these products or similar options at Home Depot, Lowe's, or online. Turn off the irrigation system and avoid applying products during rainy weather. Always follow label instructions.

By using the Texas Two-Step control method, you won't have to pay close attention to each step while walking and working in your yard and garden, and it will stop mounds from forming around your foundation where ants can enter your home.



Set your controller to run once every 7-10 days.

- ✓ Spray Heads: 12 to 20 minutes
- ✓ Rotor Heads: 30 to 45 minutes
- ✓ Bubbler Heads: 5 to 10 minutes
- ✓ Drip Systems: 30 to 45 minutes

Ensure you check your irrigation for leaks and coverage.

** These are general guidelines; tailor them to the unique needs of your landscape, soil, and climate.*

****Adhere to city guidelines and restrictions for watering ****

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