

Northern Gardener

A MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

MAY/JUNE 2020

**Shady
AND
Sustainable**

**Tough Roses
FOR THE NORTH**

**Better
Basils**



**7 STYLISH
CONTAINER IDEAS**

U.S. \$4.50 Can. \$5.50
Display until June 30

Most gardeners don't think of using English ivy for a casual trailer, but I like its old-fashioned look.

Fresh Foliage

This striking, no-flower combination uses 'Colorblaze Dark Star' coleus as the main focus; the plant reaches 16 inches in height. Using spider plant, a common grasslike houseplant at the edge, adds up and down motion while lightening up the look of the container. Most gardeners don't think of using English ivy for a casual trailer, but I like its old-fashioned look. Hostas belong in the garden and in pots. 'Guacamole' is one of my favorites and its golden hue accentuates the pot color. Silver brake fern, famous for its foliage, adds a decorative, spreading touch and mimics the white in the spider plant.

Plants:

1. Coleus 'Colorblaze Dark Star'
2. Spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*)
3. English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
4. Hosta 'Guacamole'
5. Silver brake fern (*Pteris ensiformis* 'Victoriae')

(Container is 16 inches in diameter.)



Merry Cherry

Warm tones are my favorite, especially as we ease into fall. 'Marrakesh' is a dense, mid-size plant that's stunning for three seasons of the year. I added a pop of airiness to the container with a delicate asparagus fern, an easy-to-find plant that works in any container combination. I could put a coralbell in every container, too. Its foliage stays upright and trails, or you can pop it into the middle of the container for an even more important role. I like how 'Cherry Berry' complements the red in the coleus. The 'Pineapple Poll' hosta has long, thin leaves that beautifully complement all the other leaf shapes and textures in this simple pot design.

Plants:

- ①. Coleus *scutellarioides* 'Marrakesh'
2. Asparagus fern (*Asparagus densiflorus* 'Sprengeri')
- ③. Coralbell (*Heuchera* 'Berry Smoothie') PP21,871
4. Hosta 'Pineapple Poll'

(Container is 12 inches in diameter.)

