

STATE-BY-STATE
GARDENING

ARKANSAS GARDENER

ARKANSAS' OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

COLOR
IN THE
MIXED BORDER

APRIL
THE MOST
WONDERFUL
TIME OF THE
YEAR... IN THE
GARDEN

DIY ORGANIC
PEST CONTROL

FOUNDATION PLANTING DONE RIGHT

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April 2013
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On the Cover

Foundation plantings help soften, shape and beautify the front of any residence. When created and maintained correctly, foundation plantings provide year-round interest, minimal maintenance and enhancement of the architectural style of the residence. Featured on page 12. Photo courtesy of Garry V. McDonald.

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Arkansas Gardener
 (ISSN-1539-4816)

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Periodical Postage rate paid at Ruston, Louisiana and additional mailing offices.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Arkansas Gardener, 106 W. Alabama Ave. Ruston, LA 71270.

Subscriptions: \$24.95 for one year (nine issues)
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Shade

LOVELY IN LAVENDER

The striking container was, again, the inspiration for this arrangement. Its soft purple color and bold, raised design required that the plants complement it, rather than contrast. The strong, dark purple of the shamrock (*Oxalis*) was the perfect starting point, and its white flowers draw the eye into the arrangement. Another touch of purple is found in the leaves of the foamy bells (*x Heucherella*) and the blooms of the wishbone flower (*Torenia*) was added to the other side, for an additional pop of color. The bright, lime-green of *Hosta* 'Sun Power' echoes the green of the foamy bells and at the same time,

draws your eye toward the variegated Tasmanian flax lily (*Dianella tasmanica*). Tucked between the two, the begonia brings a different leaf texture. Creeping wirevine (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*) adds softness and a spilling effect.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Start with a good potting soil and add the appropriate amount of slow-release fertilizer. Depending on your climate, this arrangement

can provide six to eight months of pleasure, so it will need the extra food. As the season progresses, add a weekly dose of liquid fertilizer, diluted to half strength. When the hosta goes dormant and the annuals are finished, add violas for color; however, in Zones 8-11, the tender plants may continue to grow. The foamy bells, hosta, creeping wirevine and potentially the oxalis, are perennials, so the container will give you a good start on the next season. ▶

RECIPE

- A. Charmed® Wine (*Oxalis* 'JROXBURWT')
- B. *x Heucherella* 'Sunrise Falls'
- C. *Hosta* 'Sun Power'
- D. *Begonia* 'Gryphon'
- E. Catalina® Gilded Grape *Torenia* (Dancat266)
- F. *Dianella tasmanica* 'Variegata'
- G. *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*



Stephanie Hudak specializes in designing container gardens. Currently she is working with the city of Madison, Ga., designing, installing and maintaining drought-tolerant, but unique, plant combinations for the street-side containers.