



Berry Show · Pot Plant Section Education Series

Collection of Herbs Growing in one Container - Class 1422

Why Enter this Class

Herb containers combine fragrance, colour, and form in a way that's both practical and decorative. This class is ideal for gardeners seeking to cultivate something beautiful and valuable — a showcase of variety, scent, and effective cultivation techniques.

Understanding the Class

- The display must be grown in one container (not assembled on show day).
- The pot must not exceed 35 cm in width or 10 kg in weight.
- Herbs should be well-established and arranged for both visual appeal and plant health.

Layout and Design

Consider using the Thrill–Fill–Spill approach for balance and structure. Choose plants for contrast and harmony.

Role	Purpose	Examples
Thrill (Height & Focus)	Tall herbs that anchor the design.	Rosemary, Sage, Lemongrass, Lovage
Fill (Body & Texture)	Mid-height herbs that add lushness.	Parsley, Chives, Salad Burnet, Lemon Balm
Spill (Flow & Edge)	Trailing or low herbs that soften the edge.	Thyme, Oregano, Mint, Native Thyme

Choosing Herbs

Start in spring (September–October) for a show-ready display in early February. Combine a variety of herbs that contrast in height, colour, and texture while sharing similar growing needs.

Use Mediterranean herbs such as rosemary, sage, oregano, and thyme for structure and drought tolerance. Add lush fillers like chives and parsley, and include spillers like mint or thyme to soften the pot's edge.

Potting Mix and Containers

Use a loose, well-drained blend that holds moisture without staying wet:

- $\frac{1}{3}$ quality compost
- $\frac{1}{4}$ coarse sand
- 2 cups perlite
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mycorrhizae
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup organic vegetable fertiliser

Select a pot labelled for edibles, with excellent drainage and a tray beneath to catch runoff.

Care and Maintenance

- Water deeply but infrequently; allow the top to dry between waterings.
- Feed with slow-release fertiliser in late spring and again in mid-summer.
- Trim regularly to maintain shape and encourage new growth.
- Remove faded leaves and check for pests weekly.

At-a-Glance Care Calendar

Month	Task Highlights	Notes
Sept	Sow or buy seedlings.	Try unusual herbs for interest.
Oct	Pot up and arrange.	Use a well-drained mix and ensure spacing.
Nov	Monitor sun/shade and pests.	Vietnamese mint prefers more shade.
Dec	Prune, fertilise, mulch.	Maintain balanced growth.
Jan	Clean up and refresh the layout.	Keep evenly watered. Wipe the pot clean for the show presentation. Label each herb.

Companion Resources

- Thrill, Fill & Spill – Designing Mixed Pots (PDF and 8 sec video)
(Part of the Berry Show – Pot Plant Education Series)