

Fresh ideas

Give your patio a blast of icy glamour with this chic and sophisticated container

Ice cool customer

Seasonal bedding needn't be brash or garish and, if you choose plants carefully, creating a stylish winter display is a cinch. The secret lies in restricting your colour palette – white and silver in this case – and selecting a pot with killer looks. We chose a striking, black-glazed container for our display, which contrasts beautifully with the flowers and foliage. All the plants we used should be readily available right now, so nip down to your local garden centre and see what's on offer.

WE USED

- 1 x *Senecio cineraria* (around £1.50 for a plant in a 9cm pot)
- 3 x white cyclamen (around £1.50 for a plant in a 9cm pot)
- 3 x *Helichrysum italicum* (curry plant around £2 for a plant in a 9cm pot)
- 26cm Black Carnival Tall Egg Pot (£19.99, Apta, 01233 621 090 or www.apta.co.uk for stockists)
- Peat-free compost (around £6 for a 75-litre bag from garden centres)
- Slow-release fertiliser granules (around £6 for a 1kg jar)

Use miniature cyclamen for stylish displays



COMBINE CERISE CYCLAMEN WITH DARK purple winter-flowering pansies and small-leaved ivies. Plant them in a faux-lead container for a classic, sophisticated look.



FOR A DELICATE, PRETTY COMBINATION hunt down soft pinks and plant them with white flowers and silver foliage. Go for a terracotta pot and you can't go far wrong.



SCARLETS ALWAYS PACK A PUNCH, so why not team red cyclamen with black ophiopogon for a funky display? This combo would look great in our black container.

PROJECT: KEVIN SMITH; PHOTOS: PERNILLA BERGDAHL; CAROLINE HUGHES; NICK SMITH; SARAH CUTTLE; TIM SANDALL



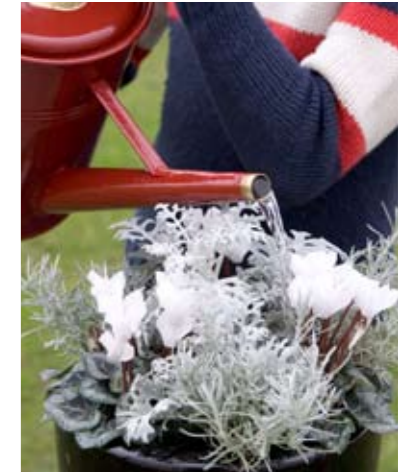
1 Add crocks to the bottom of the pot and half fill it with compost. Add a little slow-release fertiliser.



2 Lightly firm the compost to remove air pockets and plant the senecio in the centre of the pot.



3 Plant the cyclamen and curry plants alternately around the edge. Fill gaps with more compost.



4 Move the container to its final position and water well. Don't let it dry out during the winter.



FIND MORE inspiring ideas for pot and container displays this autumn at www.gardenersworld.com/plants/pots-containers