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## Instant flower boxes

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Although we'll still have some warm, summer-like days in the coming weeks, the cool nights tell me that fall is fast approaching. I, for one, couldn't be happier because autumn is my favorite time of year.

If the arrival of cold weather makes you fear the lack of colorful flowers in your beds, borders and boxes, don't worry. A few weeks ago, I told you about many of the late-blooming perennials that last until the first frost, so there are lots of choices if you wish to add color now and enjoy it until the first flakes fall.

The same is true for window boxes and other containers. It isn't necessary to clean them out and put them away as the summer annuals fade. There are plenty of plants suitable for fall plantings. Here are some interesting and colorful schemes developed by Flower Framers window boxes in connection with Proven Winners fall magic plants.

### Frosty Morn

This arrangement includes some cool-weather beauties that will look lovely until the first snowfall.

- \* Osteospermum--Cream Symphony.
- \* Helichrysum thianschanicum--Icicles.
- \* Heuchera hybrid--Green Spice.
- \* Salvia officinalis--Purpurascens.

Plant three icicles along the back of the box.

In front of the icicles in alternating spaces, plant four Green Spice.

Across the middle section of the box, evenly space out and plant three Cream Symphony Osteospermum. To finish, plant four Purpurascens along the front.

### Candy Corn

This one gets its name because it resembles a bowl of that delicious treat we all enjoy in lemon yellow, gold and orange.

- \* Hedra Helix--Yellow Ripple.
- \* Acorus gramineus--Ogon.
- \* Calibrachoa hybrid--Million Bells (terra cotta).
- \* Osteospermum--Lemon Symphony.

Plant three Ogon along the back of the box evenly spaced.

Directly in front of the Ogon, plant three Lemon Symphony Osteospermum across the middle section of the box. In between the Osteospermum, plant two Million Bells, then finish off with two Yellow Ripple in front of the box.

### Indian Summer

A bright spot of color is mixed with grasses and other colorful plants.

- \* Carex buchananii--Leather Leaf sedge.
- \* Salvia officinalis--icterinia.
- \* Calibrachoa hybrid--Million Bells (cherry pink).
- \* Ajania hybrid--Bellaria Bea.

\* *Lysimachia nummularia*--Goldilocks.

Plant three Leather Leaf sedge across the back of the box evenly spaced.

In between the Sedge and slightly forward, plant two cherry pink Million Bells.

Across the middle of the box, plant three *ellaria* Bea evenly spaced.

Alternate three *Salvia* and four *Lysimachia* in a zig-zag pattern across the front of the box.

### **Autumn Moonlight**

For a box of silvery, cool hues including blue, purple, white and soft green, try this combination.

\* *Nemesia fruticans*--Blue Bird.

\* *Heuchera* hybrid--Amethyst Myst.

\* *Lavandula Lantana*--Silver leaf lavender.

\* *Aegyranthemum frutescens*--Harvest Snow.

\* *Hedra Helix*--Glacier.

Plant three lavender across the back of the box and two heuchera in between.

Spaced evenly, plant two Blue Bird *Nemesia* in front of each heuchera (using four total).

Across the front third of the box, evenly space and plant three Harvest Snow *Frutescens*.

In between the *Frutescens*, plant two Glacier *Hedra Helix* directly in the front of the box.

### **Pumpkin Spice**

This plan uses mums in my favorite combination of warm colors from the pumpkin patch and squash garden. This box would be perfect as a harbinger of Halloween and Thanksgiving.

\* *Carex flagellifera*--Toffee Twist.

\* *Nemesia fruticans*--Compact Innocence.

\* *Osteospermum*--Orange Symphony.

\* *Hedera Helix*--Goldstern.

\* Dark Orange *Chrysanthemum*.

Plant three Toffee Twist across the back of the box.

On each side of the middle Toffee Twist, plant two *Nemesia* (four total).

Across the middle of the box, plant three Orange Symphony *Osteospermum* with an orange mum in the open spaces (two total).

Plant four Goldstem *Hedra Helix* across the front of the box, spaced evenly.

**Information:** To find Flower Framers window boxes, visit its Web site, [www.flowerframers.com](http://www.flowerframers.com), or call (800) 315-1805. For locations selling Proven Winners, visit its Web site at [www.provenwinners.com](http://www.provenwinners.com).

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