



For immediate release
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GARDENING STORY

‘Second Spring’ gardening for southern containers & window boxes

Just because it’s getting cooler in gardens of the northern regions, doesn’t mean the season is over for those lucky southern gardeners! For gardening zones 8-11, there’s a variety of wonderful plants to choose from to take advantage of this “second spring” in the south this time of the year that starts in September. It’s not too late to add lively color and texture to your home’s front entry and outdoor living spaces with easy containers and window boxes that will last well into the holiday season – location and weather permitting, of course.

Now there’s a chance to enjoy a little gardening in balmy temperatures instead of the sweltering summer heat. These plants can work well in southern containers this time of year: Petunias, Lantana, Moss Roses, Turslane, Geraniums, Periwinkles, Victoria blue salvia, Pentas, Firecrackers, Blue Daze, Marigolds, Snapragons, Begonias and Tiny Tunias or Verbenas, for a cascading effect.

For more planting ideas this season, FLOWER FRAMERS™ by Jay – makers of a classic styled, low maintenance, fiberglass window box that can water itself – has a collection of window box garden recipes ideal for southern zones 8-11 during fall/early winter months. Their Web site features spring and summer recipes that can work well in the deep south and fall recipes featuring Proven Winners® *Fall Magic* plants that can work for the cooler zones of the upper south.

According to FLOWER FRAMERS™ staff Horticulturist, Shauna Lindsey, who developed the recipe combinations, “They will brighten up your overall fall and early winter landscaping and can last well into December or longer, depending on the weather and what zone you’re in.” She also instructs not to forget to water regularly when soil is dry and apply a water-soluble fertilizer every two weeks. Even though the hot weather of summer is gone, flowers and plants still need to be fed and watered to achieve the look and results you want. How often will depend on how much it rains in your hardiness zone and what heat zone you’re in. To learn more about heat zones, visit the American Horticulture Society Web site at www.ahs.org/publications.

Here are two of FLOWER FRAMERS™ window box gardening recipes, which will fit one of their 3-foot length window boxes. Additional recipes are available on their Web site at www.flowerframers.com.

1. Cajun Parrot (part sun) – from the Spring/Summer collection

This is for the adventurous gardener who wants something striking and unusual. The colors are bright and spicy!

New Guinea Impatiens – Mango Orange
Single Impatiens – Cajun Mix

Lotus – Amazon Sunset
Coleus – Stained Glass Series & Kiwi Fern



Directions: Plant the Coleus across the back of the box, then the Mango Orange Impatiens in front of the Coleus. Fill in between the Cajun Mix Impatiens. Then plant the Lotus in the front of the box. Lotus has a feathery type foliage that will bloom with small orange-red flowers.

2. Indian Summer – from the fall collection featuring Proven Winners® *Fall Magic* plants
This time of the year brings those sunny, balmy days of comfortable weather. Even with an occasional frost, these plants will last well into the cooler months.

Carex buchananii, “Leather leaf sedge”
Salvia officinalis, “Icterinia”
Calibrachoa hybrid, “Million Bells” (cherry pink)
Ajania hybrid, “Bellania 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 Bellania Bea evenly spaced. Alternate three Salvia and four Lysimachia in a zig zag pattern across the front of the box.

FLOWER FRAMERS™ window boxes come in 2-15 ft. lengths and easy-to-install hanging brackets specially fitted to their box for railings, balconies, fences and porch or deck pickets. To order a window box, contact FLOWER FRAMERS™ at 1-800-315-1805 or online at www.flowerframers.com. Proven Winners® *Fall Magic* plants are available at garden centers and retailers nationwide. Retailers in your area can be found online at www.provenwinners.com.

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For information: Contact Julie Savchenko at Flower Framers, 800-315-1805 (x-514) or 513-623-3158 (cell)