

FABULOUS FALL BLOOMS, BERRIES & FOLIAGE!

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Texture-Rich Fall Combos

We all have our own expectations for the fall garden. Are you looking for an entirely new scene filled with fall-blooming flowers? Or do you seek to appreciate summer plants' transition from lush and lively to wizened and waning? I love to combine both. Nothing is more celebratory than seeing vibrant flowers against turning foliage and aging seedheads. Take advantage of these unique characteristics and play up the colors and textures the late season has to offer.

LET SEDUM SHINE One plant to consider is tall sedum. Sure, we might relegate it as a filler plant, just a placeholder among other, showier flowers. But I have a few examples to show you how it can be a star performer in the late-season landscape. The thick, succulent leaves are key to bringing life to a border of dropping petals and drying leaves. And the dense, flat-topped clusters of flowers are a continual source of texture from early summer on. But just as you're getting used to their muted green presence, they turn in fall anywhere from a vibrant pink to a moody mauve and recapture your interest. Tall sedum is a dependable choice for creating layers of texture.

It isn't the only plant that will do this, though. Let's discover some great combinations that feature plants with unusual flower shapes and distinct leaf patterns. Find a way to strike that beautiful balance in fall. 🌿

—Chloe Deike

Botanical Names

Tall sedum
Hylotelephium
spp. and hybrids

A Succulent Blue Fall Container

Fall is full of shades of orange, so have some fun with complementary hues of blue. Thick, milky blue kale leaves, bright cobalt plumbago flowers and navy-toned bluestem grass creates a cool combination that makes the classic orange mums and pumpkins pop. Layer on the succulent, cool-toned sedum for even more depth of color. Finish it off with thick-leaved livingstone daisy that spills over the edge.

These tough plants manage just fine if you skip a day of watering. The coneflower might be the first to fade, but it'll leave behind interesting seedheads for additional texture. The resin container is lightweight and weather-resistant.

- A Garden mum** *Chrysanthemum* hybrid Perennial; orange flowers from late summer through fall; full sun; 12 to 36 in. tall, 15 to 36 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9
- B Plumbago** *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* Perennial; bright blue flowers from midsummer to fall; full sun to part shade; 8 to 12 in. tall, 12 to 18 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 5 to 9
- C Tall sedum** *Hylotelephium* 'Autumn Fire' Perennial; flowers bloom pink and age to brick red in late summer through fall; full sun; 1 to 2 ft. tall and wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9

- D Little bluestem** *Schizachyrium scoparium* Blue Heaven® Perennial; leaves emerge blue with a pink hue in summer and copper color in fall; full sun; 24 to 48 in. tall, 18 to 40 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9
- E Coneflower** *Echinacea* 'Cheyenne Spirit' Perennial; flowers bloom in orange, red, golden yellow, cream and purple shades summer to fall; full sun to part shade; 22 to 30 in. tall, 18 to 28 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9
- F Tall sedum** *Hylotelephium telephium* 'Cherry Truffle' Perennial; large pink flowers above purple foliage late summer through fall; full sun; 18 to 24 in. tall, 24 to 30 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9
- G Livingstone daisy** *Dorotheanthus bellidiformis* Mezzo™ **Trailing Red** Tender perennial; small red flowers bloom in spring and summer; full sun to part shade; 8 to 10 in. tall, 10 to 18 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 10 to 11
- H Ornamental kale** *Brassica oleracea* 'Osaka White' Tender perennial; big, frosty green leaves with white new growth; full sun to part shade; 8 to 12 in. tall, 10 to 15 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 7 to 11
- I Arborvitae** *Thuja occidentalis* 'American Pillar' Tree; dense evergreen leaves grow in a columnar shape; full sun to part shade; 25 to 30 ft. tall, 3 to 5 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 8

PLANTS THAT STAY

Perennials (and a shrub) pack this container, but it's a good investment: Plant them in the garden to enjoy next year!



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'Pia' bigleaf hydrangea

Chinese stewartia

Switchgrass

'Beach Party' tall sedum

'Beach Party' tall sedum

Hylotelephium spp. and hybrids

Dense pillows of rich rose-flowered tall sedum are an iconic element of fall gardens across a broad hardiness range. You'll find varieties ranging from just a few inches tall to knee high available. Midsized 'Beach Party' emerges yellow-green with red leaf margins in spring before maturing to solid green, then takes on golden hues as fall arrives. Star-shaped, light pink flower clusters give way to rusty red seed heads that carry interest and provide food for birds through winter. Here, it blends beautifully with the fall colors of 'Pia' bigleaf hydrangea, switchgrass and Chinese stewartia.

Perennial **Blooms:** Light pink flowers in late summer to midfall **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Dry to average, well-drained **Size:** 10 to 14 in. tall, 15 to 19 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 4 to 9

2 | Double-duty plants A mix of evergreens provides four-season interest and screening. Lower-growing perennials, such as 'Stained Glass' hosta, help bridge the gap between tall and small and provide color spring to fall.



Evergreens are a good screen and provide shelter for visiting birds.

'Stained Glass' hosta



3 | Fantastic foliage Don't limit yourself to just one type of coral bells — there are so many different foliage colors you can mix together to create a beautiful tapestry like this one. 'Georgia Peach' (A), 'Caramel' (B), 'Silver Streak' (C), 'Dark Secret' (D) and 'Stainless Steel' (E) are just a few in this border.



False indigo

PLANTS THAT MADE THE CUT

Having a variety of plants means there's always something interesting going on in the garden.

Good Fragrance

Daphne *Daphne x burkwoodii* 'Carol Mackie'

Shrub; clusters of small pale pink sweetly scented blooms in midspring; full sun to part shade; 3 to 4 ft. tall, 3 to 6 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 5 to 8

Lilac *Syringa pubescens patula* 'Miss Kim'

Shrub; lavender-pink flowers midspring to early summer; full sun; 4 to 9 ft. tall, 5 to 7 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9 *Tom says: The flowers of 'Miss Kim' have a wonderful sweet fragrance and it's easy to grow.*

Summersweet *Clethra alnifolia*

Shrub; long white slender blooms with a slightly spicy scent in summer; full sun to part shade; 2 to 8 ft. tall, 4 to 6 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9 *Tom says: Summersweet is planted upwind from the house so it's easy to enjoy the fragrance.*

Interesting Foliage

Coral bells *Heuchera* spp. and hybrids

Perennial; white, pink or red spring to summer blooms nod over leaves in a range of colors; full sun to part shade; 6 to 24 in. tall, 10 to 36 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9 *Tom says: There are lots of foliage colors and you can use them in arrangements, too.*

False indigo *Baptisia australis*

Perennial; blue-purple flowers in late spring, blue-gray foliage; full sun to part shade; 3 to 4 ft. tall and wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9

Tall meadow rue *Thalictrum rochebruneanum*

Perennial; clusters of lavender flowers in midsummer, delicate blue-green foliage; full sun to part shade; 4 to 6 ft. tall, 2 to 3 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 7

Makes a Great Cut Flower

Dahlia *Dahlia* hybrids

Tuber; all colors but blue summer to fall; full sun; stake plants to get long straight stems for bouquets; 12 to 72 in. tall, 12 to 36 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 8 to 11

Love-in-a-mist *Nigella damascena*

Annual; blue, pink, purple or white flowers spring to fall; the seedheads work great in arrangements, too; full sun to part shade; 18 to 24 in. tall, 12 to 18 in. wide

Oriental poppy *Papaver orientale*

Perennial; orange, red, pink, purple and white in spring; sear the cut stem with a flame so the bloom lasts longer; full sun to part shade; 18 to 36 in. tall, 18 to 24 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 2 to 9