



## KEEP THOSE CONTAINERS GORGEOUS ALL SUMMER

### Salem Herbfarm 2010

Here are some helpful tips to keep those containers looking great.

Keep your plant tags to repeat or delete.

First: Purchase for your location. If you are full sun, pick sun-lovers, if you're deep shade, again pick appropriate plants. Partial sun or Partial shade can include a bit of both shade and sun plants. Some thymes putting together mixed containers can be easier, since if one plant does not do as well, you can rely on others to carry the beauty load.

Second: Watering is very important....most of the thyme, when the planters are first planted, the containers are watered infrequently. As the plants grow, more roots form and with an increase of temperature, they require more frequent watering. Get to know the plant. Ask questions. A portulaca container requires a whole lot less water than a pot of bacopa or impatiens. If it is a hanging basket, feel the weight. You could use this as a guide...water thoroughly and then feel the weight. A light plant means "I need Water". After watering, allow the plant to dry out thoroughly. Wind will dry plants out as well as very warm temperatures.

Third: Basic maintenance is necessary. There should be deadheading, pruning back long runners & thinning out thick growth. There are very few containers with no maintenance. I can think of a few...torenia, some impatiens, bacopa, but even these need to be pruned from thyme to thyme. The herbs in containers simply need to be eaten.

Fourth: Feed your container! We all need to eat and so do your plants. We feed our containers once a week with either an organic or synthetic fertilizer, following label directions. We use osmocote in the flowering pots as well. We also include some chicken poop pellets for those organically-grown pots containing herbs and vegetables. If the pots are outside and it rains a lot, the fertilizer will be washed out, so keep that in mind. They may need to be fed twice that week.



# The Salem Herbfarm

...a unique nursery experience in the heart of New England

Fifth: Protect from extremes: We can have weird weather...from lots and lots of rain, to wind and even extreme cold or heat. Protect your containers by bringing them into a garage or shed and wait until after the episode has passed. Even your car can work.