



# backyard

## Get Your Doorstep Decked Out with Fall Containers

By Lora Keddie

Halloween is just around the corner. One of my favorite parts of Halloween is how the community comes out. Parents, Grandparents and kids go door to door with their cameras and their trick or treat bags. Most of my neighbors know I love to garden and look forward to the open invitation that Halloween offers to check out what's growing in my doorstep containers. When the doorbell rings, and after the kids yell "trick or treat", traditionally the next thing I hear is a parent asking, "What is that your growing?" or "Wow, that container is beautiful." I have to admit, I love it, but the press is on each year. While other father's are hanging spiders and stretching faux cobwebs, I'm tearing out my summer annuals and popping in evergreens and hardy annuals that will get me through the holidays.

Here's a couple of recipes I used for my doorstep delights. One is a warm color option, the other is a cool color option. There are TONS of options you can try to create a color and style that will match your home. So before your door bell starts ringing, take some time to go to a garden center to see what you might want to try this year. Independent garden centers are full with these seasonal delights.

Before: Boring...

After the removal of my summer annuals what is left is an Emerald Green Arborvitae, and two other burned out perennials that have got to go.

After: Moonlight Glow!

I love these colors. I tend to go warm for fall, but these black purples, light purples, white and silvers just glow in the shade of my porch.

Additions include:

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 White Ornamental Cabbage        | 3 Raoulia               |
| 3 Purple Mini Ornamental Cabbages | 1 Ajuga 'Black Scallop' |
| 1 Variegated Euphoria             | 1 'Pagei' Hebe          |
| 1 Heuchera 'Shanghai'             | 3 Lavender Violas       |
| 1 Euonymus 'Emerald Gaiety'       |                         |

Before: Burned Out...

I believe this container didn't get watered a couple of times. The shrubs are coming back, but it just looks burned out. So out go the shrubs.

After:

Burning Autumn Sunset

This container now reminds me of those warm autumn sunsets that are great to watch go down with a nice glass of red wine. This container will look great lined up with all my pumpkins.

Additions include:

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 Crimson Wine Color Big Face Pansies | 3 Carex 'Bronzita'            |
| 3 Heuchera 'Peach Flambe'             | 3 Ornamental Cabbage 'Pigeon' |

