

Behind Every Successful Man ...

BY CHRIS BEYTES
PHOTOS BY AARON VAN WINGERDEN

In May, we featured the story of Aaron Van Wingerden and Dutch Heritage Gardens (page 60), and how he and his wife, Rozalia, have gone from zero to \$5 million in five years in large part on the strength of Rozalia's container designs. When they started, combos were only about 5% of their mix. Today, it's 40%. Because they didn't have any containers planted during our February visit, we couldn't show any of her designs. This month, we rectify that. Here are 9 of Rozalia's combos, complete with her descriptions of the design and inspiration.



Vibrant Indulgence

Note the Key Lime Pie heuchera in the foreground. Rozalia says this design started with just coleus, heuchera and ipomoea. "But I added some more color because some customers wouldn't buy just foliage. That's why I added the melon calibrachoa and the magenta petunia, which contrast with both [the coleus and the heuchera]."



Café del Mar

"My original idea was to use the Cappuccino Potunia because I was very impressed when I saw it in the catalog—it was gorgeous, so I wanted to use it. And it looked great against the texture of the coleus." Includes osteo, verbena and ipomoea. "All those colors are pulled from that Cappuccino Potunia."



Caribbean Delight

"This container was built around Ravers arctotis. It's a very vibrant orange color. They're my favorite flower—it's not geranium, it's not osteo, but it can still be used as a center plant. I pulled all the colors from the arctotis, and added the coleus for a little texture." Other plants include nemesia, verbena and calibrachoa.



Combinations

Strawberry Infusion

"This is one of my favorites. I love the veined petunia and all the colors. It has two different colors of verbena and the calibrachoa, and a little bit of lobelia."



American Dream

Calliope geranium, calibrachoa, white lobelia, verbena and cyperus. A traditional red, white and blue container, but with "some twist to it," Rozalia says (such as the cyperus instead of a dracaena spike). She'll also use white calibrachoa and white petunia). "I tried to make it a little bit different, but something that people wouldn't be afraid of, and something they'd keep on their porch even after Memorial Day or the Fourth of July."

Colorado Sunset

"Here's an orange petunia from Dummen, called Papaya. It's paired with Black Velvet from Ball. I really love this one, because obviously there are no black flowers, annuals especially. So it is very exciting, and against the orange it looks great. That's how this one came about."



Rosie Creation

"These planters are for Castle Rock Community Center. They asked me to design something vibrant and colorful. Again, I'm using the Potunia Cappuccino and I picked all the colors from that. I added osteo Sunny Cambria, some royal purple verbena, and some ipomoea for texture."

Purple Infusion

"Here is a Double Graffiti geranium. It has a very different looking flower, but it's still a geranium. It gives a great texture against the verbena or any other plant. It's not your traditional-looking geranium." Includes white calibrachoa and Supertunia Priscilla. "It has a great habit and it looks great, because it's a double."



Tropical Splash

"This is Tilt-a-Whirl coleus and the Papaya Potunia, which plays off the orange of the coleus. Then we have some yellow calibrachoa and red verbena that all go well together. They all pick up the colors in the Tilt-a-Whirl coleus." GT