

hot right now

BY ERICA BROWNE GRIVAS

Contain yourself

HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR PLANTS (AND POSSIBLY YOURSELF) THROUGH CONTAINER GARDENING.

What if you have so many new plants you ache to try that you could never cram them into your overstuffed borders? What if you're not sure what to plant because you've never tried growing anything more complicated than a Chia pet? What if your outdoor space is the size of a walk-in closet? The solution to all of the above is one of the hottest trends in the land: container gardening.

Acclaimed garden writer Sydney Eddison was compelled to write another book when she found her patio plantings in Newtown literally taking over her dreams. What had started out



as a few lonely geraniums on an unused patio became—as her compulsion for containers grew—a jungle-thick fantasy of texture and color, and eventually a book called *Gardens to Go: Creating and Designing a Container Garden* (Bullfinch Press), created with friend and photographer, fellow container nut Steve Silk. Eddison, a set designer in a prior life, tackled her patio design like a stage set, devising a new color scheme each year, down to painting her iron dining set to match or contrast, depending on the desired mood. One year is Gauguin sunset colors, the next smoky pastels.

“For people who are plant-mad, you can really have a different garden every year, and that has great appeal for people who ‘see it and want it,’” Eddison says, seeming to fall into that category herself. “It’s not as cheap as I would like, but compared to an in-the-ground garden, it is infinitely less work, less expensive and less time—which is something I think people are really looking for now.”

ABOVE AND LEFT: Sydney Eddison's *Gardens to Go: Creating and Designing a Container Garden* is packed with ideas that can bring impressive variety and even water features to your deck, patio or back yard.

