

Welcome to Gardening Forever with Sue Rambo!

I give a lot of Craft Classes but I've never figured out the time or way to do a Gardening Forever craft class on my "Tippy Pots". They're kind of a permanent fixture so you can't take the project with you when you go. Every year though, my friend Patty asks if I'm going to do a class on them. She just loves them.

So I'm going to do this as a virtual craft class. I've made a step-by-step photo display with written hints and tips so that Patty (and everyone else) can have Tippy Pot flowers!



This Tippy Pot tower was from several years ago.

Items you'll need:

- One piece of rebar (reinforced steel rod) about 5 or 6 ft.
 - One sledgehammer!
 - Five or six containers of increasing size. These must have a hole in the bottom that will fit over the rebar with room to spare so they tip. I prefer terra cotta but you could use plastic.
 - A good potting soil and probably plant food
 - A small cup for adding soil to pots
 - Plants of varying colors and shapes.
- The possibilities are endless!



Begin by pounding the rebar into the ground where you're placing your Tippy Pot tower. It does not need to go in too deep; maybe 6-8 inches.



Fill the largest pot $\frac{3}{4}$ full with potting soil and place on top of the rebar so the rod goes through the hole in the bottom of the pot. Hang on to the pot till the rebar comes up through the soil and then guide the pot to the ground.





Fill the second largest pot $\frac{3}{4}$ full with your potting medium and place this over the rebar until the rebar comes through the hole and up out of the soil.

Before you guide this one down, tip it to one side so the side of the pot is along the rebar. Guide it down to sit on top of the first pot but keep it at an angle. You may need to place a small stone or shim under the bottom to keep it tipped.



Do the same with the next pots going smaller and smaller and tipping each one in a different direction (back and forth or even in a spiral) until you have just a few inches of rebar left sticking up out of your top planter.



Tips:

If a container fits over the rebar but doesn't tilt the hole is probably too small. Notice the size of the holes in the pots shown here. I can't use the one on the left because it just fits the rebar with no room for tilting. (I tried!)



The pots should be sitting right on the edge of the pot beneath them, not on the soil in the pots.

If the rebar sticks out through the top pot (but not enough to fit another container on) leave it because the plants will grow up and cover it up in no time.



Plants may be added as you add each pot. However, I like to assemble the whole tower and then add all my plants which is why each pot is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. After adding each plant I add soil to fill the container.



Adding the plants is where you can really get creative. You can have your colors go from light to dark or from cool to warm or just mix it up.

This year, I'm just using purples and whites. It's kind of monochromatic with a bit of white to keep it bright.

I like to use plants that cascade such as petunias, sweet potato vines (shown here), ivy, verbena, Vinca vine, million bells, and I love using Alyssum!

You can add a spike plant (Dracena Spike) to top it off. It's a tough, grassy plant that can really make your tower of Tippy Pots look like a fountain.





I never clean my terra cotta pots. I like them with moss and stuff on them. That's a personal preference of course.

I used a Salvia plant for the top of my tippy plants this time. This whole thing will fill out and be lush and beautiful in no time at all.

I bring it all in for the winter and reuse the pots (and the rebar) each year.

Have fun with your Tippy pots! Try all kinds of plants in them. Think outside the pot.

Take pictures and share them with me if you would like.

Always let me know if you have any questions!

