

## WOODLAND CONTAINER

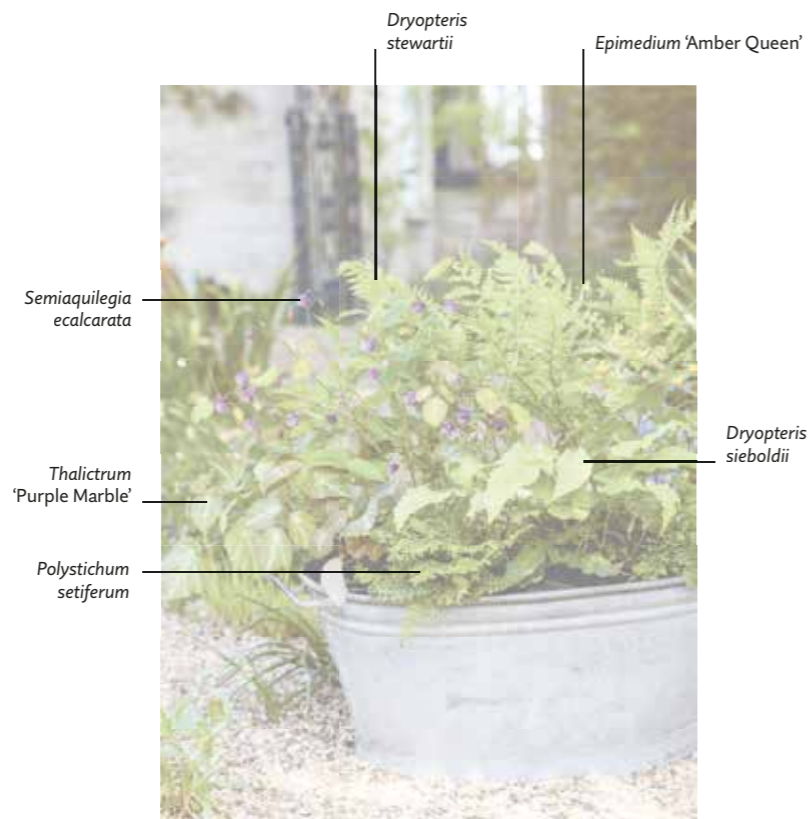
This container relies predominantly on the texture, shapes, and forms of the foliage and how they play off against one another. The *Semiaquilegia* provides colour among the fresh greens, but the container still holds interest even when the flowers have gone.

### YOU WILL NEED

- galvanized container
- compost suitable for woodland plants: I have used 2 parts multipurpose compost, 1 part topsoil, 1 part composted bark, and half part horticultural grit
- compost scoop
- watering can/hose

### Plants

- *Epimedium* 'Amber Queen'
- *Dryopteris stewartii*
- *Semiaquilegia ecalcarata*
- *Thalictrum* 'Purple Marble'
- *Polystichum setiferum*
- *Dryopteris sieboldii*



**1** First, I place the key plants from which to build the rest of the feature. Here I have used a fern, which provides great versatility and textural interest.



**2** From there, the next thing I do is think about leaf shape and look for good contrast to my key plant. Here I am creating the backdrop to the rest of the planting. Work the compost around the roots of the plants as you go.



**3** Once your backdrop has been formed, work from one side to the front and then repeat on the other side. Make sure you keep moving around to view your container from the front. Try to link plants across the container, which will help to create a rhythm and draw the eye.

**4** When you have everything in place, make sure all the plants are well planted with their roots in the soil. Then, make your way around the plants, topping up the compost as you go. Gently firm the compost around the plants – the first watering will settle the compost around the roots.



“ Unlike the other collections of pots, the planting in this single container was designed purely to evoke a particular moment, a particular emotion. ”

