

New use for old tyres

Designer **Sandra Batley** shows how to convert old tyres to a cost-free, colourful container.

You will need:

- 2 used tyres
- Paint brush
- Primer undercoat
- Exterior acrylic paint
- Container mix and compost
- Standardised kumquat tree
- Seedlings of two types of flowers or herbs – we used parsley and purple sage
- Gravel



1

Clean the tyres thoroughly to remove any grease or road dirt. Paint each tyre with one coat of primer undercoat. Allow to dry.



2

Paint the outsides of the tyres, including the walls, with two coats of an acrylic exterior paint. Leave for 24 hours to dry thoroughly. For fun, paint each tyre a different colour. You could add a decorative pattern too.



3

Place the tyres in their final position, one on top of the other (once filled they are very difficult to move). Put a layer of gravel in the bottom and fill the tyres three-quarters full of container mix with a little compost mixed in.



4

Plant the kumquat tree in the centre of the tyres so its natural ground level is flush or nearly flush with the top tyre wall. Plant seedlings of the first herb closest to the tree and of the second one around the outside. Back fill. Gently water in.

Plant information: An ornamental kumquat tree has small shiny foliage and masses of decorative bright orange fruits in winter. Its compact, slow growth makes it ideal for containers.

Paint supplied by: Resenes Colourshop, Albany. We used Resene Quick Dry Acrylic Primer Undercoat and Lumbersider exterior acrylic paint in Plum and Blackberry.
Plants and container mix supplied by: Kings Plant Barn, Glenfield, Auckland.