

Grow Vegetables in Containers



What to grow?

- Choose bush varieties of squash & cucumbers.
- Carrots - especially shorter varieties, beets, turnips
- All greens including lettuce, spinach, kale & Swiss chard
- Radish, kohlrabi, cabbage, (spring and fall)
- Peas & Beans - if you choose pole varieties, make sure your container is deep enough to accommodate a trellis system
- Herbs - remember that mint is very vigorous and will overtake other plants in containers
- Tomatoes & Peppers - Patio-type varieties are best but others will do fine. Tomatoes will need a cage or trellis system so make sure your container is large enough to accommodate that too.
- Strawberries - Choose the day neutral varieties & grow them as annuals
- There's no harm in giving anything a try.

Making it fun - remember this can be fun!

- Add to your salads edible flowers like Pansies, Violas, Nasturtiums and Borage. The flowers will help enhance pollination of your crops too.



Herbs right out the kitchen window!



Vigorous tomatoes combined with purple basil.



Try any sturdy container but budget for good potting soil, seeds & fertilizers.

- Combine plants with different colors & texture in one container to increase visual interest.
- If you like to eat lots of lettuce salads, grow cut & come again varieties. Also grow several containers at once so you will have enough to harvest.
- Gardening with kids? Trace their initial in the top of the potting soil and seed it with radishes. Their initial will "magically" grow in just a few days.
- While the evenings remain cool, continue replanting quick crops like spinach & radishes.
- Add your favorite flowers to the mix or flowers showing your favorite color.... Purple petunias perhaps?

The Basics

- You will need full sun. That is at least 6-hours of strong sunlight a day... that's between 8am and 4pm.
- Use a high quality, well drained potting mix. Don't skimp! You're growing your own food.
- Fertilize. Plants produce the best when they get fed too. If you are using a water-soluble fertilizer you will need to apply it just about every time you water.
- Provide adequate water. Because you're growing in containers plants will use more water than in the garden. If it's hot and dry you will likely need to water every day. Allow the soil in the pots to dry out between watering.
- Make sure your container has adequate drainage. The water will need to run out the bottom of the pot.
- Mulch the soil surface around your plants. This will help conserve moisture.
- You don't need special seeds. Most seed companies produce the varieties you will be looking for.
- Follow the directions on the seed packets for spacing. Be careful not to crowd your plants.

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