

Container Gardening

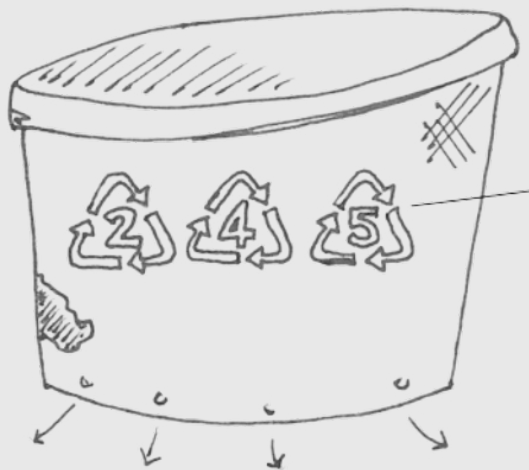
Gardening for small spaces

Container gardening is good for:



- New gardeners wanting to start small.
- Smaller spaces, like a porch or balcony.
- Cold-sensitive plants which need to be brought indoors in winter months.
- Plants with aggressive spreading roots which need to stay contained (e.g. mint, sunchoke).

What containers to use:



All containers should have a few ¼ inch drainage holes drilled along the side or near the bottom.

When growing in plastic containers, it is recommended to grow in plastics marked as food grade plastics. Numbers 2, 4 & 5 are safe food grade plastics.

The best containers may already be lying around the home or garage.

Tubes, barrels and plastic buckets are great for container gardening.

What to fill containers with



Fill containers with potting soil mix. Do not use just dirt from the ground.

A homemade mix you can try is 1 part compost, 1 part peat moss and 2 parts garden soil.

You can use potting soil mixes over multiple seasons but you must add fertilizer at each new planting. Add organic fertilizers at the beginning of the season and as needed throughout the life of your vegetables.

What vegetables to grow



9" depth

- Beets
- Lettuce
- Onions
- Radishes
- Spinach
- Swiss chard
- Herbs



12" depth

- Broccoli
- Eggplant
- Kale or collards
- Peas
- Peppers



18" depth

- Beans
- Cucumbers
- Potatoes
- Summer squash
- Tomatoes

The right container size depends on the size of the vegetable. The larger the vegetable, the larger the container needs to be!

Many vegetables have compact bush varieties, which are great for container growing. When growing pole beans or vining vegetables, be sure provide them a trellis support.