

Big gardens in small spaces: The adventures of container gardening

What can I grow in what size container?

1 Gallon	5 Gallon	Half Barrel
**strawberry-1	Leeks-2-4	Tree Collards (multiple)
**lettuce (<i>leaf</i>)-1	**tomato-1	dwarf fruit tree-1
chard-1	pepper-1	tomato -1-2
radishes 6-8	Zucchini/cuke-1	artichoke-1
green onions 6-8	lettuce (<i>leaf</i>)- 3-4	**Pumpkin-1-2
spinach -3	cabbage-1	**Watermelon-1-2
parsley-3	broccoli-1	blueberry or **blackberry-1
dill 1-2	small carrots -10-15	Potato (multiple)
chive -1	bean (<i>pole</i>)- 3-4	Grape vines-1-2
basil 1-2	lettuce (<i>bunch</i>)-1	Kiwi 1-2

These plants do great in hanging baskets and attached vertically to trellis

The addition of organic material throughout the growing season is very crucial to healthy plants and substantial yields. The nutrient levels are finite in a container and need to be replaced often. This is especially important during the flowering and fruiting stage.

Watering/Irrigation/Drainage

- ❖ Saucers for smaller pots during the summer months (they can dry out quickly)
- ❖ No saucers for pots during the winter
- ❖ Raise up pots using bricks, wood, etc in the winter months so plants don't sit in water
- ❖ If containers are too wet or too dry most of the time, it's going to stress the plant and make it an easy target for pests
- ❖ Always test the soil prior to watering (aka the finger test)
- ❖ Handwatering is efficient and easy
- ❖ Do not overfill containers with potting soil!!
 - Leave a 1-2 inch gap depending on size of container
 - Allows room for amendments and water

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Seeds

- ❖ Some companies produce seeds especially for container gardens
 - Ex: Renee's Seeds
 - The plants are shorter and more shrub
 - Root vegetables are round not elongated
- ❖ Succession plant with seeds after transplanting/purchasing starts for a continuous crop (every 2-3 weeks for most annuals work)
- ❖ Interplant crops in larger containers for space and/or companion planting
 - 5 gallon or larger
 - Examples:
 - tomatoes, basil and carrots (by seed)
 - beans/peas and pretty much anything
 - onions with carrot, chard and lettuce
 - Fruit trees with pollinator plants (spiller)

Go Vertical!!!

Hanging basket	PVC towers	Screen doors
2L bottles	Gutters	Wool pockets
Fabric shoe holders	Coffee cans	5 gallon buckets
Chicken wire	Untreated pallets	

My tips for growing in containers

- ❖ I find liquid applications of soil amendments to work very well –easy to apply
 - Diluted worm castings 3-2-2 (*color of weak tea*)
 - Fish emulsion 4-1-1 to 9-7-2
 - Used coffee grounds provide nitrogen and acidity (*this is the exception to my rule*)
- ❖ Crop rotation in container gardens can be difficult. Be sure to replace nutrients drained from the previous seasons' crop. Be on the watch for pests overwintering in the soil. Solarization can be an option to kill pests and diseases but it requires 3-4 weeks and high temperatures.
- ❖ Don't forget to include flowering plants to attract pollinators and beneficial insects
- ❖ Let some plants go to seed to attract beneficial insects, birds and pollinators

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