

Container Gardening

Growing in containers is an excellent way to decorate your space, grow delicious and beautiful plants, and adapt to your environment. This way of growing can be more manageable for beginners, and potted plants can easily be moved wherever is needed. Water, nutrients, soil, and size requirements are the biggest areas of focus for potted plants.

Choose your Adventure

Mobilize your Motivation:

Container gardens are an easy and beautiful way to improve your mental health, beautify your space, and provide convenient access to delicious, home-grown produce. Consider what function your container plants will serve for you and your space!

Pick your Pot:

1. **Terracotta pots:** A classic look and feel, the porous nature of unglazed terracotta means your plants may need watered more often, but are less susceptible to root rot.
2. **Window boxes:** Easy access without leaving your house, window boxes are available in many materials—plastic, wood, fiberglass, and metal.
3. **Hanging baskets:** These provide plants with plenty of drainage and aeration. Be wary of hanging them in windy environments.
4. **Plastic pots:** Lightweight and versatile. Some studies show that the chemicals in certain plastics can leak into the soil, so proceed with caution if growing edible plants.
5. **Metal planters:** Durable and long lasting. Their biggest drawback is that they heat up rapidly if placed in full sun, potentially leading to dry soil and damaged plant roots.
6. **Grow bags:** Plastic or fabric grow bags are best for plants with shallow roots. They're cheap, lightweight, reusable, and portable.



Select your Soil:

- Environment
 - Will your container live primarily indoors or outdoors?
 - Is your area wetter or dryer on average?
- Drainage
 - Fine potting soils hold moisture better, while coarse potting soils drain better
 - Rocks at the bottom of planters do not improve drainage, and can cause root rot
 - Compost and other organic matter can add nutrients and improve water retention
- Nutrition
 - While not essential to find already mixed into a potting soil, container plants benefit from regular applications of a slow-release fertilizer.
 - Look for the N:P:K value on the bags, lower numbers = more gentle fertilizer

Pick your Plant:



- Container Fruits: blueberries, citrus trees, dwarf varieties, pineapples
- Container veggies: peppers, tomatoes, patio varieties, kale, cabbages etc...
- Container herbs, flowers, ornamental grasses, and succulents

When to Water:

- Try the knuckle test
 - Stick your finger in the soil near the base of the plant, to about the 2nd knuckle. If soil is bone dry and room temp, water deeply and thoroughly. If not,

leave it be.

- Invest in irrigation
 - Timed drip irrigation systems can ensure all your container plants stay moist, even when you're not home.
 - Self watering glass bulbs can add extra flair while keeping your plants hydrated, while cotton wicks draped between a jar of water and your containers are a thrifty solution!

