

## #MowingToGrowing Series Container Gardening Tips

### Supplies

#### Containers

- 12" wide and deep is best for veggies; smaller okay for herbs
- Hanging macrame plant holder/hanger; use all your space
- Should be opaque and must have drainage holes!

\*You can save money, improve drainage, and make your containers easier to move with soil stretching. After adding drainage holes and before adding soil, fill the bottom layer of the container with materials like packing peanuts, ping pong balls, styrofoam, small rocks, or sticks.

#### Good Soil

- Potting soil, raised bed soil best
- Compost
- Do not use topsoil or soil from outside
- Add a Soil Moist type of product (optional)

#### Plant Feeder (Fertilizer)

- Add a tiny bit of magnesium sulfate (epsom salt) to minimize transplant shock
- Add a weak solution of fertilizer when you plant, so you don't burn the roots
- Add more monthly
- \*Always carefully read and follow the instructions for any fertilizers you use. We recommend OMRI organic products.

#### Steady Water

- Water deeply (until soil is moist and water runs out of drainage holes) when you plant
- For normal watering, stick your finger in the soil 1". Water if dry. Check again later if still moist.
- Mulch! Container plants are notorious for drying out, mulch will help.

#### Sunlight

- Most plants do best with 8 hours of direct sunlight
- A few veggies can grow in partial shade (lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, beets)

#### Helpful Tools

- Gloves
- Hori Hori or Trowel
- Scissors
- Drill
- Garden Shears

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Container Gardening Tips**

<b>Plants for Containers</b>		
<b>Spring (March &amp; April)</b>	<b>Summer (May to mid-June)</b>	<b>Fall</b>
Lettuce Spinach Beets Peas Greens (like kale) Chives Radishes Carrots (like Paris Market) Potatoes Cold tolerant herbs (like cilantro, sage & thyme)	Green beans Corn (Yes, you can grow corn in containers) Cucumbers Zucchini Peppers Tomatoes Eggplants Sweet potatoes Red malibar	Carrots Lettuce Spinach Greens Beets Radishes Turnip greens Garlic Leeks
<p><b>Note:</b> All but the largest vegetables can be grown in containers. You will be most successful if you seek out smaller, more compact varieties. These are often labeled patio or bush varieties.</p>		

**Additional Tips**

Companion Planting

Even though you are planting in containers you still need to think about plant placement. Do your research to see which plants do well together (companions) and which do not, either because they impede each others growth or will cross and impact seed saving (example: dill & fennel are great plants and monarch butterflies love them, but they'll cross so choose just one).

PEP (Pretty Edible Pollinators)

Pollinators are important but take up space. This is when you need a plant to do double duty.

- Edible Flowers: Nasturtiums and some varieties of marigolds (Bonanza Mix, Flagstaff, 'Inca II, 'Lemon Gem, Tangerine Gem, Red Gem, Vanilla Improved, Zenith, Bon Bon and Flashback Mix).
- Sunchokes/Jerusalem Artichokes (sunflowers with edible tubers like water chesnuts)
- Cascading strawberries & cherry tomatoes

Plan Ahead to Save

If you have space, watch for clearance sales at garden centers in late summer and fall for deals on fertilizers and planters.

Overwintering

Bring perennial (peppers, sage rosemary) or bi-annual (kale, carrots, parsley) plants indoors to overwinter