Container Gardening

Limited space for growing vegetables? No problem. Transform pots, tubs, barrels, used clothing, sacks, etc. into vegetable pots and create your practical container garden.

Container gardening can be arranged according to your taste. You can place them on the ground, on a pedestal, mount them on a windowsill, or hang them from your porch.

Containers can also be arranged into **vertical** or **hanging** gardens.

Some Points to Consider in Container Gardening

Container Sizes

The rule of thumb for container gardening is that the bigger the size of the container, the better. Large containers can hold more soil, stay moist for a longer time, and are more resistant to rapid temperature change.

Container sizes and recommended plants.

1 Liter Plastic Bottle
Leafy greens
- Kangkong
- Kale
- Lettuce
- Pechay
- Mustard
- Onions
- Spinach

1.5-2 Liters Plastic Bottle
Leafy greens and Herbs
- Basil
- Thyme
- Rosemary
- Sili
- Bush Sitao
- Celery

5-8 Liter Plastic Bottle
Leafy greens, Herbs, Fruiting Veggies
- Peppers
- Eggplant
- Tomato
- Okra
- Radish
- Ginger
- Sibuyas

5 Gallons Plastic Bottle
Fruiting Veggies
- Eggplant
- Tomato
- Bell Pepper
- Cucumber
- Squash
- Cabbage
- Ampalaya
- Sayote
- Upo

Container Drainage

Drill holes at the bottom and on the sides of the container to enhance drainage and avoid water logging.

Minimum soil depth

Consider root system of plants such as shallow-rooted plants (pechay, broccoli, spinach, cabbage, lettuce, kale, onions); medium-rooted plants (Cucumbers, Beans, Zucchini, Carrots, Radish); and deep-rooted plants (Tomatoes, Asparagus, Squash, Bottle Gourd and Ampalaya).

The **minimum soil depths** for healthy growth are the following:

Soil Depth	Recommended Plants
4-5"	lettuce, radishes, pechay, basil, coriander, mustard
6-7"	bush beans, garlic, onions, mint, upland kangkong,
8-9"	pole beans, carrots, cucumber, eggplant, leeks, peppers, spinach, parsley, rosemary
10-12"	beets, broccoli, okra, potatoes, zucchini, ampalaya, upo, eggplant, dill, lemongrass

Selecting Plants for Containers

You can grow vegetables in individual containers — from large pots to 5-gallon or 19L buckets or half barrels. These will accommodate a single plant or several smaller vegetables such as broccoli or cabbage.

Plant combination

When combining several types of plants in one pot, it's best to match plants that have a similar need for water and fertilizer. For example, rosemary, which likes hot and relatively dry conditions, would not be a good match with water-hungry cucumbers. To maximize space, combine a trailing plant with an upright plant.

Some plants grow better when grown near a companion crop. On the other hand, some plants don't grow well when paired with certain plants.

Below offers good plant combinations — as well as combinations to avoid.

Good Companion Plants:
- Beans, carrots, squash
- Eggplant, beans
- Tomatoes, basil, onions
- Lettuce, herbs
- Spinach, chard, onions

Combinations to Avoid:
- Beans with onions and garlic
- Carrots with dill or fennel
- Tomatoes or squash with potatoes
- Onions with beans and peas

Container Gardening Care

Container gardening plants need regular application of fertilize such as compost tea or other foliar fertilizers. Start once every two weeks and adjust the frequency depending on plant response.

Water plants thoroughly, how often depends on many factors such as weather, plant size, and pot size. Spread a layer of mulch for large containers to help retain moisture. Be sure to keep mulch an inch away from plant stems.

Prune plants and remove infected plant parts or those that don't grow well. You can add another plant in the container to maximize the space. Keep an eye for pests like aphids and mites.

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