

Vegetables in Containers and Other Small Spaces



Boston Natural Areas Network
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Guard Against Extremes.

Monitor Daily for optimum amounts of:

❖ **Water**

❖ **Temperature**

❖ **Sunlight**

❖ **Pests**

Sun, Sun, Sun

- ❖ Minimum 8 hours for foliage vegetables & herbs
- ❖ Minimum 10 hours for flowering/fruiting vegetables



Water

- ❖ Garden hose
 - close by and out of pedestrian traffic
- ❖ Watering can
 - fewer containers
- ❖ Drain or dump out excess



FOR FOOD CROPS: Use quality compost or soilless medium

❖ Sterile, Soilless Medium (Compost)

❖ Fertilizer

❖ Desirable Medium Characteristics

- holds moisture
- drains well
- provides fertilization



Space - Arrange Containers in Groups

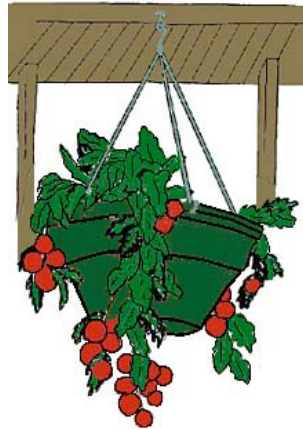
- ❖ Ensure ease of access to all containers
- ❖ Use nooks and crannies
- ❖ Arrange for aesthetic enjoyment from viewing areas
- ❖ Ensure ease of pedestrian flow



Containers, Containers, Containers

❖ Sizes

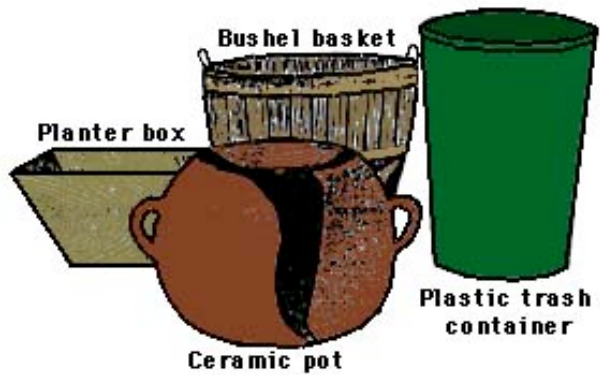
- small to 5 gallon for foliage veggies & herbs
- 5 gallon to 30 gallon for flowering/fruiting veggies



Containers, Containers, Containers

❖ Types

- drainage, porous, non-porous
- fun, recycle!



Choose Container-Friendly plants

Beans, green - Topcrop, Tendercrop, Derby

Beets - Little Mini, Ball, Early Red

Broccoli - any variety but Crusader

Brussels Sprouts - all varieties

Cabbage - Baby Head, Dwarf Morden

Carrots - Nantes, Little Finger, Short & Sweet



Choose Container-Friendly plants

Chard - any variety

Chinese Cabbage - Bok Choy, Wong Bok

Collards - any variety

Corn - Kandy Korn, Precocious

Cucumber - Salad Bush, Spacemaster, Fanfare,
Pot Luck

Eggplant - Bambino, Black Beauty, Pirouette



Choose Container-Friendly plants

Kale - any variety

Kohlrabi - Grand Duke

Lettuce (leaf)- Green Ice, Little Gem, Red Sails,
Salad Bowl



Onion - bunching types

Peas - Early Patio, Little Marvel, Snowbird, Sugar Bon
Peppers - any variety

Choose Container-Friendly plants

Potatoes - any fingerlings, Red Pontiac, Yellow Finn

Pumpkins - Small Sugar, Baby Boo

Radish - (avoid winter radishes) Cherry Belle, Icicle

Spinach - any variety

Squash, summer - Yellow Crookneck, Peter Pan, Sunburst

Squash, winter - Butterbush, Bush Acorn



Choose Container-Friendly plants

Tomatoes, standard - Jetstar, Celebrity, Super Bush

Tomatoes, patio - Patio

Tomatoes, cherry - Pixie, Sweet 100

Turnips - any variety



Types of soil mix

❖ Commercial (no endorsement intended)

- Jiffy Mix, Promix, Jiffy Pro

❖ Compost

Use fine for small seeds;

Use coarse for large seeds and/or transplants



Soil Mix Recipe

MATERIALS

Compost

Dehydrated cow manure

Granular (organic) 5-10-5 fertilizer

TO MAKE 2 BUSHELS

1 1/2 bushel

1/2 bushel

2 Cup

Moisten similar to wrung-out sponge; store in plastic.



Pot size and amount of soil mix

Inside Diameter	Approximate Soil Content	Inside Diameter	Approximate Soil Content
3"	1 Cup	8"	1 Gallon
4"	2 1/2 Cups	9"	1 12/ Gallons
5"	1 Quart	10"	2 1/4 Gallons
6"	2 1/2 Quarts	12"	3 1/2 Gallons
7"	3 Quarts	14"	6 Gallons

Container size for vegetables

Crop	Minimum Size	Number Plants per Container
Beans, green	1 Gallon	2-3 plants
Beets	2 Gallon	thinned to 2-3" apart
Cabbage	1 Gallon	1 plant
Carrots	2 Gallon	thinned to 2-3" apart
Chard	1 Gallon	1 plant
Cucumber	1 Gallon	2 plants



Container size for vegetables

Crop	Minimum Size	Number Plants per Container
Eggplant	2 Gallon	1 plant
Lettuce (leaf)	1 Gallon	4-6 plants
Pepper	2 Gallon	2 plants
Radishes	2 Gallon	thinned to 1-2" apart
Spinach	1 Gallon	thinned to 3" apart
Tomatoes - cherry	1 Gallon	1 plant
Tomatoes - standard	3 Gallon	1 plant

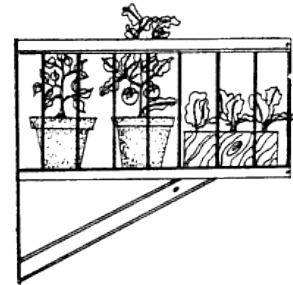
Water

- ❖ 1" per week, rule of thumb
- ❖ Moist, not soggy
- ❖ Avoid dry/wet extremes
- ❖ Cool, not hot water
- ❖ Never add fertilizer to dry soil



Pests

- ❖ Check plants daily
- ❖ Hand pick critter pests
- ❖ Increase air space between plants to avoid plant diseases
- ❖ Remove weeds



GARDEN INSECTS SOME HELPFUL VISITORS



Vertical

❖ Use cages, stakes, trellises to save space

❖ The taller the plant, the bigger/heavier the container needs to be



Harvest

- ❖ Harvest at optimum size (know variety)
- ❖ Clean up site for dormant season



✓ **Start Small**

✓ **Keep Journal**

✓ **No Such Thing as Failure**

