



I want a beautiful garden...

GARDEN MENTORING • ADVICE • REDESIGN

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Garden consultations, ideas to take your garden forward.

Garden border planting plans.

Gardening lessons in your own garden.

Seasonal gardening talks.

Christmas wreath workshops.

Container gardening



Why grow in containers?

Growing in containers means you can use all areas of your garden for growing plants, patios, fences and walls.

It enables you to grow plants that have particular requirements such as acidic, alkaline or very free draining soil.

Pros and cons of pots.

Plastic inexpensive, wide range of colours and styles, lightweight great for decking, balconies and roof gardens. Retain water well. Can blow over in the wind

Terracotta available in a large range of designs and sizes, they are porous so water will evaporate through the side meaning compost may dry out quickly.

Glazed pots are better at retaining water.

Wooden planters are good for keeping soil at a constant temperature.

Stone containers are sturdy and heavy, less likely to blow over in the wind.

Larger pots retain water better than small pots.

Check the label to ensure pots are frost proof. If they are not, they will be prone to crack in cold weather.

Filling containers with compost

THREE STEPS TO PLANTING A CONTAINER

Follow these three simple steps to give your summer pots the best start

1

FILL WITH COMPOST

Our trial (Apr 14) showed that putting crocks in the bottom of pots can actually make drainage worse, so just fill your pot with a Best Buy compost for containers (see p64).

2

MIX IN CONTROLLED-RELEASE FERTILISER

Our trials have shown that controlled-release fertiliser will produce the best results and save you the hassle of remembering to liquid feed regularly – use a Best Buy.

3

PUT IN THE PLANTS

Space plants so they have room to grow, and make sure you leave a few centimetres of space below the pot's rim so the water has time to soak in and doesn't just run off.



Thriller, filler, spiller

Plant several plants in a large container instead of planting in lots of small containers. This will make your container garden more organized and uncluttered. However, don't buy all the pots of the same size.

1. Thriller

Tall plants that bring height and impact.

Ornamental grasses, Canna lily, Yucca, Aster, Coleus, Cosmos, Cordyline.

2. Fillers

Fillers are covering plants that spread to fill the gaps between the Thrillers and spillers.

Geranium, impatiens, Petunia, Pansy, Coleus, Begonia

3. Spiller

Spiller plants are those that spill over the edges of the container and cascade down.

Alyssum, Million bells, trailing Fuchsia, Helichrysum, Ivy, Nasturtium, Morning glory, Bacopa, lobelia.



Thriller, fillers, spillers.

How to arrange plants

Step 1.

In order to organize the arrangements of plants in a container, start with the thriller-type plants. Plant them in the centre of the pot, so that they will not cover other plants and can be viewed from all sides. Thriller plants must be the twice of the height of the container.

Step 2.

Surround thrillers with filler plants. You can choose flower fillers or foliage fillers or both if your container is big. Choose great fillers, they will connect both the thrillers and spillers and add interest to the arrangement.

Step 3.

Lastly, plant the spillers (trailing plants) near the edges of the container so that they'll grow naturally across the sides of the container.



Height for wow factor





Sometimes less is more

Carefully chosen containers and architectural plants can be dramatic.

These pots with subdued colours are complemented by plants with interesting foliage.



Go green

- Do you need flowers?
- Using Hosta, yellow elder, heuchera and variegated foliage creates a dramatic effect.



Alpines



Alpines

Use a John Innes No3 soil-based compost, but it should have plenty of grit or sand added to keep it open and free-draining. Spread a thin layer of grit or gravel on the compost, this helps protect the crown of the plant from rotting off and it sets off the appearance.



Unique Planters



Unique planters



Unique planters



Unique planters

Use unique planters to provide visual interest to your container vegetable garden. You can recycle and DIY your own planters or buy a few in unusual shape and size.



To deadhead or not?

Deadheading should take moments, not days. Pelargoniums (Geraniums) are a snip to deadhead, simply cup your hand over the flower and snap the stem off where it meets the stalk. Fuchsias' remove the swelling behind the faded flower. Diascia, nemesia, lobelia, bacopa and all those other tiny flowers that are more like blossom: leave them be, but when there is an obvious mat of dead flowers, shear them off, as you would groundcover geraniums, with the hope of a second flush.



GROWING VEG IN CONTAINERS

Climbers

Support climbing vegetables and vines and direct them upward with the help of a trellis, cage, obelisk, tripod of canes or by any other way. These plants use vertical space and are abundant in production try, gourds, cucumber, climbing French beans, vine tomatoes, peas, pumpkin and melons. Ensure the pot has a wide stable base to help prevent them being blown over in the wind.



Colour

You can brighten up your container vegetable garden by choosing colourful containers to grow your favourite vegetable and herbs.



Hanging baskets

Don't cast out the idea of growing herbs and vegetables in hanging baskets.

Tomatoes, strawberries, many other vegetables, and herbs can be grown in hanging baskets successfully. It also creates space!



One pot salad garden

This one pot salad garden idea is perfect if you don't have space to set up a container garden. For those who have a sunny corner, small balcony or open window that receives full sun. Grow easy herbs, tomatoes or cut and come again lettuce. Readymade salad without the supermarket packaging!



Tomatoes

Tomatoes are a wonderful and the most important addition to a container vegetable garden. They look beautiful. Choose 2-3 varieties and grow a few plants to get a bountiful harvest of home grown tomatoes. The best bush tomato varieties for the container are Sweet 100 and Totem. Tumbling tom red or yellow and hundreds and thousands for hanging baskets



Start with the Productive and Easiest Container Vegetables

Asian greens are great crops to grow in pots as they grow fast and don't need a lot of sun. You can grow them in shade in a spot that receives 3-4 hours of morning sun. Providing them plenty of moisture and organic fertilizer is important so that they thrive.

Without a doubt, tomatoes are the most productive vegetables you can grow in pots. Tomatoes need ample sun (5-6 hours minimum). Try cherry tomatoes for higher yield.



Start with the Productive and Easiest Container Vegetables

Courgettes are easy to grow plants. You can harvest bountiful crops even in containers. It is one of the most suitable crops for balcony or patio gardeners. Grow two or more to aid fertilisation.



Peppers and chillies are super productive and excellent candidates for growing in containers. They look great in pots and need a sunny and warm place to thrive. If you keep the pot in a sunny spot and fertilize the plant time to time it will fruit heavily. A large pot that is at least 12 inches deep is optimum.



Start with the Productive and Easiest Container Vegetables

For growing lettuce, choose a wide planter rather than deep (6" deep is enough). When planting, make sure to leave space of at least 4 inches between each plant. Remember, leaf lettuces can be grown more closely than head lettuces. Use well draining soil and do shallow and frequent watering to keep the soil slightly moist always.



Spinach is one of the best vegetables for containers. It grows well in partial shade and in any kind of space. Growing spinach in containers is easy. For growing spinach in pots, choose a pot that is least 6-8 inches deep. You don't need a very deep pot rather use a wide one.



Start with the Productive and Easiest Container Vegetables

Try sowing Chard in July to crop in October, chard can be grown in small sized pots. Each plant requires at least 6 inches of space.



You can grow climbing beans on a trellis near a wall and within weeks, you will get a green wall of beans running across the trellis. For growing beans you need a sunny place, and a pot that is minimum 12 inches deep (the bigger the better) and a strong trellis like structure for support.



Blueberries

Requirements

- Acid soil.
- Rain water.
- Ericaceous fertilizer.
- 6 hours of sun.
- Regular watering.
- Protection from birds, stealing the fruit.
- Time to get established.



Pests

Vine weevil is a pest to lookout for. They live among and eat the roots of plants. They are a small half inch long cream coloured grub, the adults are grey with a pointed snout.

Bug clear ultra vine weevil killer is for ornamental plants only and cannot be used on open ground.

For vegetables or edible crops use Nemasys biological vine weevil killer a nematode that attacks vine weevil larvae.



Adult Vine Weevil



Slugs and snails



Slug pellets - ferric phosphate can take up to 7 days to kill a slug or snail. Slugs and snails are a food source for birds, toads and hedgehogs. Encouraging wildlife into your garden can help control the slug and snail population.

Organic methods.....nematodes for slugs, beer traps, pick them up, dry porridge oats!