

# Gardening in Containers:

## How Deep Should They Be?

In choosing containers, you'll want to consider the necessary root depth for your crops. The following is a list of depth requirements for many common vegetables, herbs, and flowers.



**6-10 inches deep:** Arugula, basil, beet, carrot (short or round), chervil, chicory, chive, cilantro, garden cress, lettuce (butterhead, looseleaf), mizuna and other salad mustards, onion (green and pearl), parsley, peppermint, radish, spinach, thyme, tomato (dwarf cherry), watercress.

Flowers: Small flowers such as alyssum, lobelia, pansy, and dwarf marigold.

**10-15 inches deep:** Carrot (longer), celery, Chinese cabbage, garlic, leek, lettuce (crisphead, romaine), mustard, oregano, potato, strawberry, Swiss chard, tomato (dwarf or patio).

Flowers: Taller flowers such as godetia, calendula, salpiglossis, cornflower or cosmos.

Larger herbs, such as oregano, sage, and marjoram.

**15-18 inches deep:** Bean (all kinds), collards, cucumber, eggplant, kale, melon (short-vine varieties), pea, pepper, pumpkin (short-vine varieties), squash (summer and winter), tomato (short vines).

Flowers: Most annual and perennial flowers.

**18-24 inches deep:** Broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, tomato (any kind).

Flowers: Sunflower.

Extra fertilizer and water will allow crops to grow in slightly smaller containers.

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From: Golden Gate Gardening, 3rd Edition: The Complete Guide to Year-Round Food Gardening in the San Francisco Bay Area and Coastal California by Pam Peirce, 2010

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