

CONTAINER GARDENING

Need some color on your patio or deck? Want to brighten a window box? How about fresh herbs outside the kitchen door? With container gardening you can have beautiful color and fresh produce in places you may have never imagined! Success with container gardening is easy if care is given to plant and soil selection, exposure, water and fertilizer.

PLANTING BASKETS & PLANTER BOXES: There are many different shapes and sizes of containers to choose from, just make sure they have drainage holes. If it's a used container, clean it well first.

Soil for containers needs to be lighter than what is in your yard to provide adequate drainage and aeration. Use a potting mix such as Happy Frog Organic potting soil or Fertilome Potting Mix. It is also a good idea to mix in a slow release fertilizer such as Osmocote. Use NEW soil each year to avoid starting with last year's diseases and pests.

When selecting plants, make sure they have similar exposure and water requirements. Also, use a variety of textures and heights. Taller plants such as Draceana Spikes look great in the center while trailing plants such as Lobelia, Sweet potato vine or Trailing Petunias look nice near the edges. Experiment with colors! There are many nice combinations.

Be creative! Try mixing herbs in with annual flowers to make containers colorful and useful. Many vegetable plants also do well in containers like Cherry tomatoes and cucumbers.

CARING FOR BASKETS & PLANTER BOXES: Container plants dry out faster than plants in the garden, so they will need to be watered more frequently. Be sure to water deeply and thoroughly. Allow the soil to dry out slightly between waterings. Morning waterings are best so leaves are not wet all night. This will help prevent disease.

Container plants will need plenty of fertilizer. Water with a water soluble fertilizer once or twice a week. We recommend Fertilome Blooming and Rooting for healthy green leaves and lots of blooms. Remove old blooms to keep your flowers blooming longer.



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