

# Balcony and container gardening

## Toronto Master Gardeners



### Containers are versatile

- can replace a backyard garden
- can be moved around to accommodate aesthetics and growing conditions
- plant material can be different every year
- help to create a pollinator corridor

### What to consider before planting containers?

- building rules on weight and placement on balcony
- accessibility re: water source, getting soil/plants up the elevator
- hours of light and how strong?
- wind – it's stronger higher up
- choosing the right plants to suit your given conditions
- best container for given conditions – wood, plastic, etc. – MUST have drainage
- put all info in a PLAN before you go shopping!

### Plant material

- choose pretty much anything you want as long as it suits your conditions – flowers, shrubs, small trees, vegetables, annuals, perennials
- use the design principle - thrillers, spillers, fillers

### Maintenance

- begin with good quality container soil, note if it contains fertilizer

- smaller containers need more water (consider some tricks to help – mulch, inverted containers, soil amendments)
- follow a fertilizer plan
- prune/deadhead flowers as necessary
- trees/shrubs should be root pruned about every two years
- midsummer on – make sure water is still getting to the interior of the container
- if using perennials or trees, ensure some winter protection (large pots, grouping pots together, some form of insulation)

Much more, tons more, information at  
[torontomastergardeners.ca](http://torontomastergardeners.ca)