



## Growing Edibles in Containers

**Choose varieties** of vegetables that are labeled “dwarf”, “bush” or “patio.” Vegetables that take up little space, such as carrots, radishes, green onions, beans and lettuce, or crops that bear fruit over a long period of time, such as tomatoes and peppers, are perfect for container vegetable gardens.

You can pretty much grow any vegetable in a container except for corn, pumpkins and vine fruits. Virtually any herb will also do well in pots.

Note: Research companion plants, since some veggies do like to be planted right next to other types.



**Choose plants that you can harvest continually** over a long season, like chard, spinach, collard greens and kale.

**Choose plants that have similar cultural requirements.** Most vegetables & herbs like at least 6 hours of sun. Leafy crops (lettuce, cabbage, greens, spinach and parsley) can tolerate more shade than root crops (radishes, beets, turnips and onions). Fruiting crops such as cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes and eggplant won't do well in shade at all. One advantage to container gardening is the ability to move & position the pot where it can receive the best growing conditions.



**Choose a container, bigger the better.** Most veggies require at least a 5 gal pot with drainage holes. Shallow rooting lettuces can be planted in smaller pots, while tomatoes, carrots and peppers need deeper containers. Clay tends to be more porous and dry out faster than plastic or wood. Use a saucer to catch water run off and prevent surface staining, but do not let pots sit in the excess water. Try a hanging basket of tumbler tomatoes—cute, as well as productive!

**Containers need container mix.** Containers require a loose, well-draining soil rich in organic matter. *Dr. Earth Organic Vegetable Planting Mix* provides the best possible growing medium for large pots. Avoid using regular garden soil as it is likely to be infested with soil pests, bacterial or fungal disease, and drains poorly in containers.

**Fertilize** with *Dr. Earth Organic Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer* to feed the roots of your vegetable plants abundantly and consistently. Supplement with water-soluble fertilizer as needed since nutrients leach out quicker in containers than in the ground.

**Stable moisture levels** are important for plant growth but can be a challenge with container gardens. Water holding granules can be added to the soil mix to retain moisture in the soil until it is needed by the plant.

**Enjoy good food right outside your door!**