

Outdoor Container Gardening

Factors to consider

Location

- Sun
- Microclimates
- Wind

Watering

- **Drip irrigation:** a line bringing water directly to your plants slowly
- **Buried urns:** filling an underground water source for nearby plants
- **Hand watering:** using a hose or sprinkler system to water large areas

Trellises

- **String trellis:** best for raised beds or along fence lines
- **Cage trellis:** good for pots
- **A frame trellis:** connect two areas together or make a covered walkway

Choosing a container

- Size (bigger is better)
- Cost/Aesthetics/Durability
- Weight/Stability
- Allows good drainage

Options:

- Terra cotta
- Cast concrete
- Plastic/fiberglass
- Polyurethane foam
- Cloth bags/wall pockets
- Repurposed materials

Potting soil considerations (don't use garden soil)

- Light
- Drains well

Nutrients (need more in a small space)

- Good water retention (need more in a small space)
- Free of disease

Cost (can make your own)

Will need to supplement/renew each growing season

Potting soil ingredients

Nutrients

Quick Release:

- Liquid soluble nutrients & soil amendments
- Look for Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium Ration (NPK)
 - N: Healthy foliage
 - P: Strong Roots
 - K: Healthy plants

Slow Release

- Compost

Air

- Perlite
- Vermiculite

Moisture Retention

- Coconut Coir
- Peat Moss

Selecting your plant varieties

- What do you like to eat?
- How much space do you have?
- How adventurous are you feeling?
- Will it be viable?

Container friendly varieties?

Small is beautiful!

Territorial Seed Co

TerritorialSeed.com

Search for 'Container'

Burpee Seed

Burpee.com

Container favorites

Johnny's Seeds

JohnnySeeds.com

Grows well in containers

What works well

- Herbs
- Pole beans (up not out) *Need a trellis*
- Carrots (shorter varieties are easier)
- Cucumbers (can also be trellised)
- Eggplant
- Green onions
- Lettuce/salad greens
- Peppers
- Radishes
- Summer Squash
- Tomatoes
- And more

Square foot gardening

Garden planning

- Right plant/right place/right pot
- Succession planning
- Thriller/Filler/Spiller (Can be closer together)