



# CLASS NOTES

## 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 Ratio (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](http://TerritorialSeed.com)

Search for 'Container'

##### Burpee Seed

[Burpee.com](http://Burpee.com)

Container favorites

##### Johnny's Seeds

[JohnnySeeds.com](http://JohnnySeeds.com)

Grows well in containers



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## 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)