

# Container Gardening



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# Why Garden in Containers?

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- ☐ Great for small yards or no yard
- ☐ Can move to where you have sun
- ☐ Can control the type of soil
- ☐ Easy to weed
- ☐ Can have veggies and herbs closer to the kitchen



# Types of Containers You Can Use

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You can use just about any container as long as it has drainage holes

- ☐ Plastic Buckets
- ☐ Clay Pots
- ☐ Ceramic Pots
- ☐ Wood Containers
- ☐ Growing Bags



# Soil for Containers

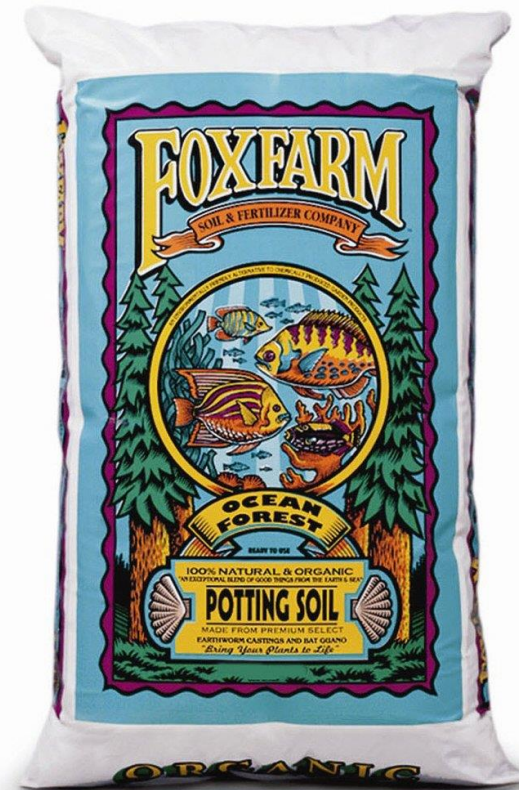
You want a soil that drains well but does not dry out too quickly

❑ Soilless potting soils are the best

Disease and weed free

Lighter weight

Less likely to compact



# Watering

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- ❑ Will have to water more often
- ❑ During hot, windy summers, you may need to water twice
- ❑ Try not to get foliage wet when watering
- ❑ Water until you see it come out the bottom
- ❑ Add a thin layer of mulch on top of container



# Fertilizing

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- ☐ You should fertilize your veggies in a pot
- ☐ I would recommend using an organic fertilizer, as you are going to be eating the food
- ☐ Use at  $\frac{1}{4}$ -  $\frac{1}{2}$  strength once a week or so
- ☐ Note: some of the nutrients will wash out every time you water



# Plants That Do Well

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☐ Tomatoes

☐ Peppers

☐ Eggplant

☐ Cucumbers

☐ Summer Squash

☐ Sweet Potatoes

☐ Lettuce

☐ Kale

☐ Spinach

☐ Green Beans

☐ Beets

☐ Carrots

☐ Radish

☐ Herbs



# Container Size Ratio

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- ☐ Think about what veggie you are growing
- ☐ Plant similar veggies together: Herbs, leafy greens
- ☐ Root crops will need deeper pots
- ☐ Leafy greens can use shallow pots
- ☐ For peppers and tomatoes, a bigger pot is best (use one plant per pot)





# Container Size Ratio

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- ❑ 5-6 inches: chives, lettuce, radishes, other salad greens, basil, coriander
- ❑ 7-8 inches: bush beans, kohlrabi, onions, Asian greens, peas, mint, thyme
- ❑ 9-10 inches: pole beans, carrots, chard, cucumber, eggplant, leeks, spinach, parsley, rosemary
- ❑ 11-13 inches: beets, broccoli, okra, potatoes, summer squash, dill, peppers
- ❑ >14 inches for tomatoes: Nothing smaller than a 5 gal. bucket



# Container Sizes

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You want a container that has room for roots and holds enough water

This is a pepper called 'Dragon Roll'





# More Containers

- This container has six lettuce plants and one kale



2/26/18



# More Containers

- This has two lettuce, two kale and two bok choy



3/8/18





# Sweet Potatoes

- These sweet potatoes were planted in a black pot originally from a tree





# Just For Fun: Microgreens

- ❑ Seeds are planted very close together
- ❑ Only grow to a second leaf, then cut them to eat
- ❑ Beets, kale, basil, radish, lettuce, broccoli, peas and chard are all good for microgreens
- ❑ Only take 1-3 weeks to grow
- ❑ Very high in vitamins and minerals



# Thank you!

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To learn more about gardening and our programs, visit our [website](#) or email [education@dmbotanicalgarden.com](mailto:education@dmbotanicalgarden.com).

