

So What Should I Plant?

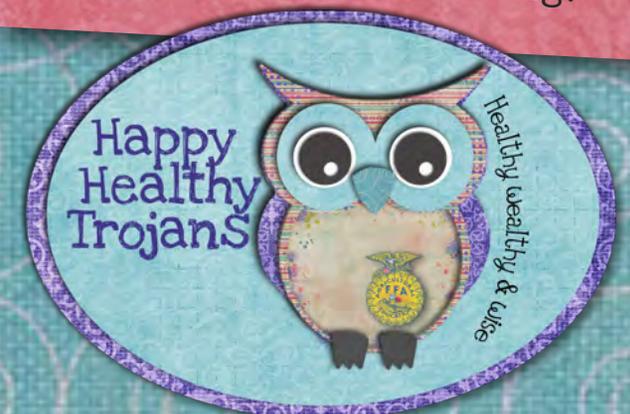
- Small salad greens such as spinach, arugula, kale, or romaine lettuce
- Cherry tomatoes and other fruiting vegetables, including peppers or eggplant can be easily grown in containers
- Root vegetables such as baby carrots, radishes or spring onions.
- Try planting quick-growing small herbs and leaf lettuces around your larger fruiting vegetables.
- Fruits such as strawberries or dwarf-sized berry plants to conserve space



Container Gardening: The Basics

Not enough room for a garden?
Try container gardening!

Contact Us! We'd love to help you!
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Helpful Hints!

Soils & Growing Mixtures

Make sure your planting medium drains rapidly but retains enough moisture to keep the roots evenly moist. Your compost will make an excellent potting soil. If compost is not available, purchase a good quality potting mixture or make your own from equal parts of sand, loamy garden soil, and peat moss.

Sunlight

Your container garden will need at least five hours of direct sunlight each day. As a general rule, leafy vegetables such as cabbage and lettuce can tolerate the most shade, while root crops such as beets and carrots will need more sun. Fruiting vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers need the most sun. The amount of sunlight needed by flowers varies.

Fertilizer

Since potting mixes drain water rapidly, fertilizer will be washed out of the container as you water. Lighter mixes will require more frequent fertilizing than heavier mixes. It's a good idea to use a dilute liquid fertilizer with every other watering.

Watering

In an exposed location, container plants lose moisture quickly. Some plants will need to be watered daily, especially during hot, dry weather. Make sure your plants are adequately watered, but do not overwater them.

Even the smallest patio or porch can boast a crop of vegetables or a garden of flowers in containers. Planter boxes, wooden barrels, hanging baskets and large flowerpots are just some of the containers that can be used. The container gardener is limited only by her imagination. Consider the following guidelines when choosing your container:

- Avoid containers with narrow openings.
- Cheap plastic pots may deteriorate in UV sunlight, glazed ceramic pots are excellent choices but require several drainage holes, and redwood or cedar pots are excellent rot-resistant options for container gardens.
- Use containers between 15 - 120 quarts capacity.
- Make sure your pot has adequate drainage. Line the base of the pot with newspaper to prevent soil loss.
- Set containers on bricks or blocks to allow free drainage.
- Line hanging baskets with sphagnum moss for water retention. Keep baskets away from afternoon sun.
- If you choose clay pots, remember that clay is porous and water is lost from the sides of the container. Plants in clay pots should be monitored closely for loss of moisture.

