

Tips for Container Gardening

The Container

While traditional pots may have a nice and elegant look, don't feel you have to spend an arm and a leg on materials for your container garden. You can use just about anything for a pot. Here are some ideas:

- Old Tires
- Old Cooking Pots
- Shoes
- Plastic bottles w/ tops cut off
- Oatmeal canisters
- Coffee canisters
- Trash cans
- Just about anything!



When choosing a container, it is important to note that some materials (like wood and terra cotta) allow water to be evaporated at a faster rate and may call for more frequent watering. On the other hand, materials like plastic hold water in, so avoid over watering. Make sure your container has at least one drainage hole on the bottom. This is crucial.

Think about the plant size when choosing a container. For example, if you are growing carrots, you should probably choose a deep, rather than a shallow pot.

Basic Needs

Every plant needs sunlight and water. These are often forgotten with container gardens. If at all possible, keep your plants in an area of the house or porch where it will get plenty of sun. Make sure to check your plant daily to see if it needs water. Some plants need more water than others. You don't want the soil to dry out, nor do you want to have a swimming plant.

One More Note

If you are taking good care of your plant with proper water and sunlight, but your plant still looks kind of sad, you may want to replant. Try moving your plant to a bigger pot for a week or two and see if it perks up.