



## Outline

- Containers—type and size needed
- Media
- Fertilizer
- Water
- Specialty considerations
- Veggie varieties



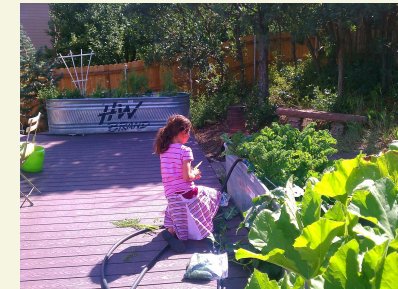
## The Container

- Requirements:
  - Must be large enough to support plants when fully grown
  - Hold soil without spilling (rigid sides)
  - Have adequate drainage
  - Clean



## Things to Consider Before Planting

- Size
- Weight
- Mobility
- Cost
- Look
- Drainage hole!



## Container Size

- Size will depend on mature crop size and space available
- The bigger the better
- Needs to be deep enough to accommodate plant roots
- Smaller containers dry out faster



## General Guidelines

### 1-2 gallon (soil volume) containers:

- Peppers
- Chard/leafy greens
- Dwarf tomatoes

### 4-5 gallon (soil volume) containers:

- Large tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Squash
- Eggplant

## Pot Size Conversions

- 8" pot: 1.5 gallons of soil
- 10" pot: 2.5 gallons
- 12" pot: 3.5 gallons
- 14" pot: 4.5 gallons
- 16" pot: 5.5 gallons
- 20" pot: 6.5 gallons



## Media

- Needs to be well-aerated and well-drained
- Needs to retain enough moisture for plant growth
- Look for bagged or bulk material called "soiless" or "potting soil"
- Make sure you wet the material before putting in container
- Don't use topsoil or native soil as they are too heavy
- Reuse?

## Fertilizer

- Needed for success
- Two types:
  - Slow (timed) release
  - Water soluble
- Organic: combination of fish emulsion, kelp meal /extract, greensand, and bone meal.



## Slow Release Fertilizer

- Add at planting time and thoroughly mix into the media
- Balanced types best (i.e. 10-10-10)
- Follow instructions on fertilizer container for recommended amount
- More is not better—it can lead to plant decline and death
- Osmocote® 14-14-14 is ½ tbsp to one gallon of dry media



## Watering

- In addition to soil media, probably most important component
- Needs to be consistent – not always wet/always dry
- Needs good drainage
- Can use drip irrigation in containers just check frequently
- Subirrigated: water is wicked up for plant



## Blossom End Rot

### Water imbalance/Calcium deficiency

- Too wet
- Too dry
- Root damage



## Trellising Plants

- Can only support so much weight and plant material, so consider plant's mature size
- Materials may be metal, bamboo, mesh, wood, plastic, etc.
- Train plants to climb the trellis every few days
- You can use ties or just gently weave plants around structure
- As fruit begins to grow, make sure it has room to expand



## What Varieties Should I Plant?



## General

- Any veggie plant or seed with the words patio, tiny, baby, dwarf or pixie will likely be a good choice for a container garden.
- Vegetables that take up little space, like radishes and lettuce, or bear fruit over a longer period of time, like tomatoes and peppers, are ideal for containers.





## Cabbage & Kale

- Full sun to part shade
- Use 5 gallon container
- Space cabbage 12 to 18 inches apart, kale 10 to 15 inches



## Carrots

Plant in 1 quart container or larger

- 2 to 3" between plants
- Full sun to part shade
- Succession sow every 2 weeks
- Varieties:
  - Ruby Queen
  - Nelson
  - Short 'n' Sweet
  - Thumbelina (AAS)



## Cucumbers

- Use 1 gallon or larger pot
- Space 14" between plants
- Full sun, warm season crop
- Trellis vines or plant bush types
- Varieties:
  - Salad Bush Hybrid
  - Spacemaster
  - Lemon
  - Gherkin
  - Picolino



## Eggplant

- 1 plant per 5-gallon container
- Full sun
- Fertilize
- Varieties:
  - Fairy Tale
  - Patio Baby
  - Gretel
  - Hansel
  - Black Beauty
  - Long Tom



## Green Beans

- Pole beans give bigger yield in small space
- Use 2 gallon pot or larger
- Space 2 to 3" between plants
- Full sun
- Succession sow over several weeks
- Varieties:
  - Blue Lake
  - Kentucky Wonder
  - French Dwarf
  - Topcrop



## Lettuce

- Heat sensitive; needs part shade
- Use one-half gallon pot or larger
- Space 4 to 5" between plants
- Varieties:
  - Buttercrunch
  - Bibb
  - Salad Bowl
  - Romaine
  - Dark Green Boston



## Peppers

- Almost any pepper is suited to containers
- Peppers like it hot! Place in full sun
- One plant per 2- gallon container
- Types:
 

• Cubanelle	• Cherry Bomb
• Sweet Banana	• Long Red Cayenne
• Lunchbox	• Habanero
• Padron	• Jalapeno
• Shishito	



## Summer Squash

- Bush type is best
- Plant one plant per 5-gallon pot
- Full sun
- Varieties:
  - Patty Pan (Sunburst)
  - Round (Eight Ball, Lucky 8)
  - Yellow (Dixie, Early Prolific Straightneck)



## Smaller Tomatoes

- Vines can be huge, go with dwarf types
- 1 plant per 1-gallon pot, full sun
- Trellis
- Varieties:
  - Patio
  - Pixie
  - Supersweet 100
  - Sweet 100 Patio
  - Sun Gold
  - Mountain Magic
  - Heirlooms: Zebra, Black and Currant Tomatoes



## Larger Tomatoes

- Use dwarf types so plant stays small
- Cage or trellis
- Prune off side suckers
- 1 plant per 5-gallon container
- Full sun
- Varieties:
  - Super Bush
  - Demidov
  - 'Husky' family



## Questions or Discussion?



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