

Container Gardening



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Why Garden in Containers?

- 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

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

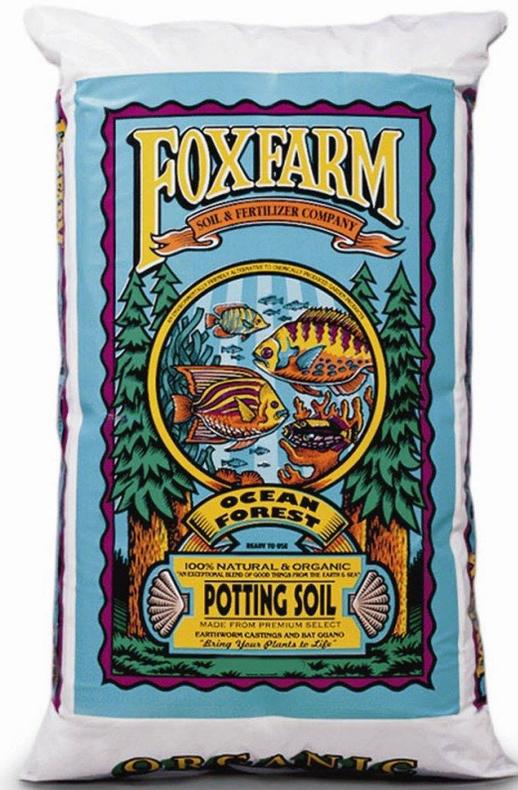
You want a soil that drains well but does not dry out too quickly

❑ Soilless potting soils are the best

Disease and weed free

Lighter weight

Less likely to compact



Watering

- 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

- 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

Tomatoes

Peppers

Eggplant

Cucumbers

Summer Squash

Sweet Potatoes

Lettuce

Kale

Spinach

Green Beans

Beets

Carrots

Radish

Herbs



Container Size Ratio

- 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

- ❑ 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

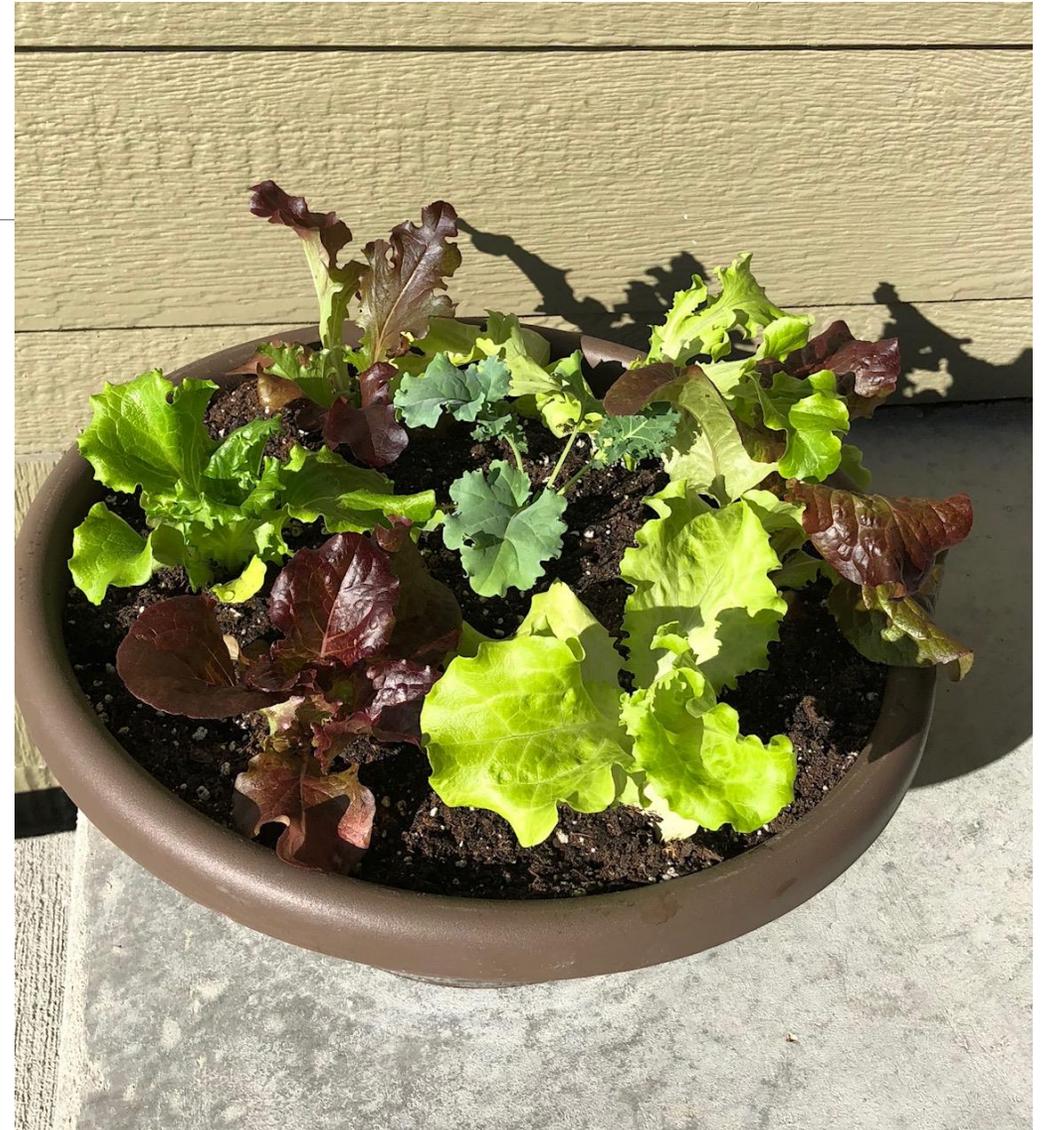
You want a container that has room for roots and holds enough water

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!

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

