



## Common Problems in Container Gardening

(Adapted from Cornell University Extension "Growing Vegetables, Herbs, and Annual Flowers in Containers")

Problem	Cause	What to do
Plants wilt although obtaining enough water	Insufficient drainage and aeration	Use lighter soil mix, increase number of drainage holes, use mix with higher percent of organic matter
Leaf edges die or "burn" turning dry and brittle	High salt content	At regular intervals, leach container by watering until water drains from drainage holes
Plants "leggy", spindly and unproductive	Not enough light  Too much nitrogen	Relocate plants to area receiving more light  Apply fertilizer less often and allow water to drain through drainage holes
Plants yellowing from bottom, lack vigor, poor color	Too much water  Not fertile enough	Water less frequently and check for good drainage  Use fertilizer with higher level of nutrients
Plant leaves with spots or powdery, rusty or dead dried areas	Grown at temperature that is too low  Low phosphate level	Move container to a warmer area  Use fertilizer with higher concentration of phosphate
Leaves with small holes or that are distorted in shape	Insect damage	Use insecticide suited to the insect causing the damage
Plant leaves with spots, dead dried areas, or powdery or rusty areas	Plant diseases	Remove diseased portion of plant and use fungicide. If problem is severe, discard entire plant and replace soil  Move to area with more air circulation