



CONTAINER GARDENING



INTRODUCTIONS

- Chat Box - Give your first name and location (county).
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Note: this program is being recorded.



OBJECTIVES OF THIS CLASS

- Basic Needs for Containers
- Planting
- Maintenance: Fertilizer, Watering, Pruning, Clean-up
- Suggested Plant Varieties

CONTAINER ADVANTAGES



- Can be used almost anywhere
- Can move plants to take advantage of weather conditions
- Little maintenance
- Attractive

CONTAINER LIMITATIONS

- Require more water
- Frequent watering leach nutrients so need to fertilize
- Vine crops difficult to grow
- Large containers are heavy



CONTAINER TIPS



- Get creative: Buckets, bins, crates, cans, gutters, washtubs
- Go bigger: allow enough space for roots
- Match the location: heavier pots for a windy location, lighter pot on a deck

REUSE

- Coffee cans, kiddie pools, washtubs
- Caution on reusing tires or anything that used petroleum due to heavy metals
- Clean with solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water



CONTAINER TYPES



- Clay – porous, breakable, cool, dry quickly
- Stone – frost proof, heavy, cool
- Ceramic – expensive, breakable
- Metal – rust, hot
- Wood- recommend non-treated or add plastic liner
- Plastic – lightweight, inexpensive
- Planting pouches



POLL

- Poll- What do you grow in containers (check all that apply)?
 - Vegetables
 - Annual Flowers
 - Perennial flowers
 - Shrubs or trees









Garden of Len & Barb Rosen









GATHER YOUR GEAR

- Gloves
- Trowel
- Shears
- Potting Mix
- Fertilizer
- Containers
- Hand Truck



LOCATION



- At least 6 hours of direct sun daily
- Exposure: windy, dry or sheltered or wet, level or sloped
- Consider tucking into a flower bed
- Close to a water source

SOIL REQUIREMENTS

- Potting mix recommended
- Recipe: 2/3's compost and 1/3 perlite or vermiculite
- Can add slow release fertilizer
- Caution on moisture holding granules





SEEDS VS. SEEDLINGS

Seeds

- Inexpensive
- Grow Plants that are hard to find
- Newly sprouted seedlings are delicate

Seedlings

- Can get a quicker start on the season
- Must harden off to get them used to the outside

WATERING REQUIREMENTS



- Water Deeply
- Check moisture level
- Know your plants
- Water in the Morning
- Don't rely on the rain
- Water the soil, not the leaves
- Don't let soil dry out completely
- Don't assume once is enough



DRAINAGE & FERTILIZER

Drainage

- Over-or-under watering is the #1 cause of plant failure
- Plants must never sit in accumulated water

Fertilizer

- 10-10-10 is suitable for most vegetables and flowers
- Fertilize seedlings with 50% dilution
- Consider timed release or add at $\frac{1}{4}$ strength per 1-2 weeks

5 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. Fill a big container in the wrong place
2. Over-water
3. Under-water
4. Buy sick plants
5. Have unrealistic expectations



COMMON PROBLEMS

- See hand-out
“Common Problems in
Container Gardening”
from Cornell University
Extension “*Growing
Vegetables, Herbs and
Annual Flowers in
Containers*”





VEGETABLES & HERBS



CHAT BOX

- Please share your most successful vegetable grown in containers.



TOP VEGETABLES FOR POTS

- Beans
- Beets
- Chard
- Greens (mustard, kale, collard)
- Eggplant
- Lettuces
- Peppers
- Radishes
- Spinach
- Tomatoes
- Herbs



BEANS



- Bush vs. pole
- Provide climbing support
- Harvest frequently
- Require regular water, their flowers will drop if the soil is too dry

CARROTS

- Long maturity-up to 2 months so can be tedious
- Seed a few in with potted flowers
- Grow best and sweetest in cool temps of spring or fall
- Get tough if dry



CUCUMBERS



- Vining type require trellis support and heavy pot
- 6-8 hours of sun
- Heavy fertilizing
- Require warm temps & soil temp of at least 70 degrees

EGGPLANT

- Require warm temps even at night
- Plant in a dark pot
- Some staking may be required
- Slender varieties produce more fruits and can be picked young (Hanzel, Little Fingers)



ONIONS



- Green or bunching onions best (can harvest green or whole)
- Can add to other vegetable pots
- Need consistently moist soil
- Start early and keep succession plantings

LETTUCE

- Sun or shade
- Grow loose leaf and cut outer leaves
- Once they tire out, succession plant every 3-4 weeks
- Cool weather, move to shade when hot
- Lack of water will cause lettuce to bolt



PEPPERS



- Tropical perennial plant (can bring indoors for the winter)
- Both sweet & hot are good for pots
- Nice ornamental
- Large peppers may need staking

POTATOES

- Half fill container with potting mix or compost
- Plant tubers 4 inches deep
- As plants grow, add more mix or compost to fill container keeping top above soil mix
- Water regularly and harvest in as little as 7 weeks



RADISHES



- Best when they grow quickly
- Cool, damp conditions are preferred
- Move to a shady spot in summer and keep well watered

SUMMER SQUASH

- Bush vs. vine (bush better choice)
- Need male & female flowers for pollination
- Harvest when small and they will keep producing



TOMATOES



- Full size tomato = large pot, strong stake, lots of water
- Crowding diminishes yield, stresses plant, diseases
- Can underplant with lettuce, basil or flowers
- Cherry or patio tomatoes good choice



HERBS

- Many herbs like heat and some dryness
- Combine herbs that share the same growing conditions









SWISS CHARD & PANSIES

Dallas Botanical
Gardens

The background of the slide is a soft-focus image of autumn leaves. A large, prominent leaf in the upper left corner is a deep red color with some orange and yellow highlights. Other leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red are scattered throughout the background, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The overall lighting is warm and bright, suggesting a sunny day.

ANNUALS



CHAT BOX

- Please share your favorite ornamental container combination.

2015

Veggies

✓ Early Girl
 Tomato: ✓ Super Sweet 100's
 ✓ Roma
 ✓ Cherry large
 ✓ Mountain Spring
 ✓ celebrity
 ✓ Basil
 ✓ Parsley } into rail box

Annuals

✓ Moss Roses
 ✓ Pansies
 ✓ Ornamental Kale
 ✓ Alyssum
 ✓ Marigolds

Ferns
 ✓ Athyrium ✓ Fadyia
 ✓ Red
 ✓ Ostrich
 ✓ Comunda ✓ Regalis
 ✓ Royal
 ✓ Fern

Roses
 ✓ Climbing
 ✓ DB Knock out
 ✓ Mango Salsa

✓ trailing + 1 herb for rail box
 ✓ King tut + sweet potato vine + calibrachoa
 ✓ 2 Fountain grasses

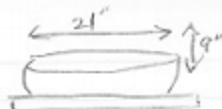
✓ Calibrachoa or wave
 ✓ New Guinea
 ✓ Cocks
 ✓ oxalis
 ✓ Cordyline

✓ Diamond Frost
 ✓ Euphoria
 ✓ Dichondra

✓ Begonia

2015

Window rail box



Shallow bowl

16" round radius 4" Begonia

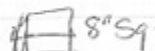
4 URNS -

single
cacti or
wave



3 Metal

2 small sq



8" sq. 2 New Guinea Impatia

1 round



12" Mother-in-law + filler - golden

2 room



9"

1 taller col



11"

3 plastic rounds

3 Calibrachoa or wave

1 whiskey barrel

3 ✓ ✓

2 Spirea 'Bail Carol' Sundrop

✓ Goldanod 'Fireworks' - Solidago

✓ Agastache 'Blue Fortune'

✓ Alyssum montanum Luna, Basket of Gold

✓ Polygonatum variegatum
 ✓ Pachysandra terrestris
 ✓ garden giant potager

CONTAINER TIPS

- Thrillers, Fillers, and Spillers
- Accessorize with twigs or sculpture
- Edit throughout the season





DESIGN TIPS

1. Shape: opposites make good companions. Upright pairs with mounding, mounding pairs good with trailing
2. Texture: Fine, hard, soft, glossy, fuzzy – the greater the contrast, the more dramatic
3. Form: overall shape – a tall, narrow container is a good neighbor to a low, rounded one
4. Line: the visual path you follow from container to container
5. Proportion: visually pleasing height of plant is 1 ½ to 2 times the width/height of the container
6. Scale: containers size to its placement in the landscape – Big house = big container
7. Balance: equal distribution of weight either physical or visual

SHADE EXAMPLE



- *Caladium* 'White Christmas'
- *Browallia* 'Marine Bells'
- *Bacopa* 'Abunda Giant White'

Photo Credit: Better Homes & Gardens



Container at Olbrich Gardens, Madison

SUN EXAMPLE

- Purple fountain grass 'Fireworks'
- *Lobelia* 'Techno Heat Upright Dark Blue'
- Zonal geranium 'Classic Dark Salmon (Noblesse)'
- *Helichrysum petolare* 'Limelight' (Licorice Plant)



Photo credit: Better Homes & Gardens







ANNUALS THAT STAND UP TO THE HEAT

- Cosmos
- Marigolds
- Moss Rose
- Sunflower
- Verbena
- Zinnia





MAINTAINING ANNUALS

Keep them looking good

- Pinch back: browallia, coleus, dichondra, licorice plant, persian shield, sweet potato vine
- Deadhead: marigold, dianthus, geranium
- Undercut: bocopa, calibrachoa, lobelia, petunia, ivy, twinspur
- Self-cleaning: Angelonia, dragon wing begonia, marguerite daisy, moss rose





PERENNIALS

USING PERENNIALS & SHRUBS

Advantages

- Can use plants divided from your garden
- Can reuse for many years



Disadvantages

- Need to overwinter by burying pots outside, covering with mulch or bringing to an unheated indoor space
- Expensive if purchasing

TIPS FOR USING PERENNIALS IN POTS

- Select one zone hardier
- Plant in containers that will not crack if frozen
- Best option is to move to a structure where temp is cool but does not freeze, lightly water if dry
- Prepare for winter storage by not fertilizing or heavily watering in late summer and fall



PERENNIALS FOR POTS & HOUSE PLANTS

Some to try:

- Coral Bells (*Heuchera*)
- Sea Thrift (*Armeria maritime*)
- Foam Flowers (*Tiarella cordifolia*)
- Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*)
- Lenten Rose (*Helleborus*)





SOME PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Select mounded, compact, or dwarf perennials
- Plants will probably only grow about half their normal size due to constraints in the container
- Consider very hardy plants if you will be overwintering or be prepared to bring inside for those that are more tropical
- The bigger the pot, the higher success rate both during the season and in overwintering

EXAMPLE



- CORDYLINE 'BURGUNDY SPIKE'
- Oxalis Burgundy Wine
- Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)









PERENNIALS FOR CONTAINERS

- Achillea (Yarrow)
- Brunnera
- Coreopsis
- Dianthus (pinks)
- Ferns
- Hemerocallis (Daylilies)
- Heuchera (Coral Bells)
- Hosta
- Lamium
- Lysimachia (Creeping Jenny, Moneywort)
- Primrose
- Salvia
- Sedum
- Sempervivum (Hens & Chicks)
- Tiarella (Foamflower)

SHRUBS FOR CONTAINERS

- Recommendation is two zones colder if overwintering outside
- Be prepared to bring inside to overwinter
- Dwarf varieties best
- Try: Dogwood, Hydrangea, Juniper




Payne Museum , Oshkosh , WI



PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

- **Perennial Favorites:** Bee Balm, Shasta Daisy, Coreopsis, Verbena, Phlox, Aster, Coneflower, Yarrow, Butterfly Weed
- **Annual Favorites:** Zinnia, Cosmos, Petunia, Cleome, Goldenrod, Morning Glory, Dill, Sweet Alyssum, Marigold
- **Host Plants:** Borage, Snapdragon, Nasturtium, Parsley, Fennel, Dill, Butterfly Weed, Violet, Milkweed, Hollyhock





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