

CONTAINER GARDENING

Lack of gardening space does not have to limit your ability to grow flowers or vegetables. Growing in containers allows opportunities almost anywhere on patios, porches, balconies or indoors under lights. Plants can be arranged in different ways to take advantage of colors, textures, and blooming times. Located close to the kitchen, container gardens are excellent for growing herbs.

Containers

Containers are available in a variety of sizes and styles. The size of the container will depend on the eventual size of the plants it will contain. The container will also affect the size of the plant and how often it will require water. Make sure the container has holes in the bottom for the excess water to drain.

Soil Mix

A well drained, lightweight medium is best for growing plants in containers. The growing medium must support the plants and provide water and nutrients. It is not a good idea to use plain garden soil for container plants, because it is heavy and can have insects or disease. We recommend *Fertilome Ultimate Potting Mix* for most container gardens. For organic gardening, we recommend *FoxFarm* soils, which are chalk-full of organic nutrients & mycorrhizae. We carry specialty potting soils, as well! For added root development and faster establishment, mix *Myke for Annuals & Perennials* to the soil before planting.

Plant Selection

Choose plants that are adapted to the site and that are pleasing in form and color. Vegetables that produce fruit, such as tomatoes, beans, peppers, etc; require at least six hours of full sun to be productive. Leafy and root vegetables can get by with fewer hours of direct sun. Flowers should also be selected according to the amount of sunlight they will receive. Our Greenhouse layout helps with selection by sunlight. The South side of the greenhouse is full sun, while the North side is full shade to part sun.

Maintenance

Watering: Check containers for moisture in the morning when plants are freshest. It is normal to see a little stress during the heat of the day in the summer. *Soil Moist* is a polymer granule which can help conserve moisture in container plantings. Mix into the planting medium at planting.

Feeding: Containers use up nutrients in their limited soil supply and need regular feeding. Granular and slow-release feed the plants over a longer period of time, only needing to reapply monthly. Water-soluble fertilizers provide a quick dose of feeding, but is very short-lived. Some of these need to be used every time you water, or multiple times a week. You can always add a splash of *Superthrive* to the watering can to give an extra boost. Always follow label instruction as too much fertilizer will cause salts to build up injuring plant's roots.

Pinching: Lastly, timely pinching and deadheading (trimming spent flowers) can promote quicker bloom turnaround and reduce legginess. The plant's energy can go towards new blooms and shoots. Always prune any dead or damaged foliage.

Organic Products we recommend:

