

Container Gardening

*Container gardening can be especially rewarding and easy.
Below we have summarized some tips and guidelines to help you succeed.*

Choose the Right Pot

- Make sure your pot has drainage holes.
- Consider whether you want a glazed or unglazed pot. Unglazed pots "breathe" better but evaporate more quickly. Glazed pots will retain moisture longer.
- If you already have plants in mind, make sure you get an appropriate size pot. For example, many plants such as citrus trees will get large in time and benefit from being potted in a large pot like a half wine barrel or equivalent size.
- If you are planning on eventually repotting your plant, make sure you get a pot with straight sides or an outward flare. It can be remarkably difficult to remove plants from pots that curve back in toward the plant.



←YES

If you pick this pot or one with straight sides, you will be able to slide the intact root ball out to repot your plant into a new pot.



←NO

If your plant outgrows a pot like this, you could have a difficult time safely removing the root ball. You will likely end up disturbing the root ball or breaking the pot to remove your plant. Use this shape pot only if you are not planning to transplant your plant at any point.

Know your exposure

- Is your container sitting in morning or afternoon sun?
For AM sun only, select shade tolerant plants. For PM sun, select sun loving plants.
- Is the container in a windy area? Staking maybe necessary for taller plants.
- Is the container in an enclosed, sheltered area? You may be able to include some tender tropical plants which would not flourish out in the elements.

Choose Your Plants Wisely

Be sure to select plants that will be happy living together in a pot. Plants with varying water or sun needs will struggle when planted together.

Think About Design

The most interesting containers combine different sizes, textures and colors of plants. We recommend using the Thriller, Filler & Spiller philosophy. We are happy to help you select.

Thriller - This is the focal point of your container. These are usually tall plants that offer some architectural structure or interest to your container. They are usually planted in the middle or back of the container.

Filler - The fillers connect the other two elements to each other. They disguise the base of the thriller and add interest around the pot. You may have several types of fillers depending on the size of your container.

Spiller - These are plants that spill over the edge of the pot and help soften the look of your design. They can have colorful flowers or interesting leaves for some texture.



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Container Gardening (cont'd)

Plant Correctly

- Choose the appropriate soil. We recommend **Master Nursery Potting Soil** for most plants (2-3 two cubic foot bags will fill a half wine barrel). For citrus, azaleas, camellias, daphne and other acid lovers use **EB Stone Azalea, Camellia & Acid Mix**. For succulents we recommend a **Cactus Mix**.
- The correct planting technique is to put your new plants in the container with their crowns exposed. That means that no extra soil goes on top of the existing soil that's already there.
- Choose the right plant collection for your needs. Whether you need bold color accents, cool calming collections, formal or free-form, ask our associates for their suggestions.

Fertilize

- *Fertilizing is very important in container gardening!*
- Start your planting off right by mixing some of our **Master Nursery Master Start** or **EB Stone Sure Start** and time-release **Osmocote** into your soil. The starter fertilizer gives the new roots a jumpstart and the **Osmocote** will be there to feed slowly for several months.
- One month after planting you should start fertilizing with a water-soluble fertilizer like **Maxsea** and continue to do so every 3-4 weeks.

Watering

Watering needs are affected by many variables including:

- daytime temperatures
- amount of sun or shade exposure
- wind
- pot size & glaze

Things to remember:

- In cooler months, watering needs decrease.
- As daytime temperatures reach 80° and above and rains decrease, watering needs increase.
- The best way to determine your watering needs is to closely monitor your newly planted container and adjust your watering as Mother Nature's conditions change.
- Look for any signs of 'droopy' plants and put your fingers in the soil to feel how dry or wet it is. Do this for a week or two and you should be able to determine the proper watering interval.
- Always remember to thoroughly drench the soil when watering and make sure your container has holes to drain excess water.

Continuing Care

- Most annuals and perennials need "dead-heading" (removing old blossoms) throughout the season to keep them blooming. Do this weekly or as old blossoms fade. This keeps the plant from creating seed pods which stops the bloom cycle.
- As your plants grow and mature they may need a little "clean-up". That means taking off old, yellowing or browning leaves and flower stalks.

Something Fun to Try

Theme gardens also are fun to do in containers. Consider a salad, pizza, salsa, cocktail or edible flower garden.

Have fun and enjoy your creations!



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