



CONTAINER GARDENING

2023 Leaders Guide

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Educational Goals

- Ideas for an easier way to grow a garden.
- Learn how to prepare containers for planting.
- Ideas on how to plant the containers

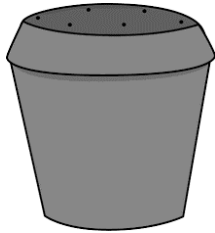
Community Action

- This could be a community project, especially if you live in an apartment living complex.
- You can make a display for the fair or local farmers market.
- Plan a trip with friends to your local greenhouse to choose the plants or start your own little greenhouse to grow the plants.

Are you ready for fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden?

As we get older the work of tilling, planting and hoeing is getting harder to do. There is an alternative solution, Container Gardening. This type of gardening puts your garden right at your fingertips and outside on your patio or porch.

When choosing a location for your containers, consider the wind and sun. Plants like at least 6 hours of sun. You may also consider where the water spigot is located, this will allow for easier watering. You can place these containers on your patio or in the yard. Be cautious of where you put them so they get the right amount of sunlight.



You will need to decide what type of containers you would like to use. You can use 5-gallon buckets, terra cotta pots, ceramic pots or you can build a wooden stand to plant your plants in. When choosing wood, avoid treated lumber and choose cedar or redwood. If containers do not have drainage holes, you can use rocks in the bottom of the container to keep the roots from drowning. A container that is 16” to 24” in diameter will hold several plants. Larger containers will hold moisture longer and will not tip over as easily in the Kansas wind.



Secondly, you will need to decide on soil. You can bring soil from your previous garden, purchase top soil, or use peat moss. Peat moss will require more watering as it does dry out more quickly. You can mix peat moss with your soil to break down the soil and make it airier. You can also add fertilizer, plant food and Epsom salts to your soil. You should try to find 18-6-12 fertilizer to get the nutrients required.

You can plant peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and green beans in containers. You can add a small trellis or pole for the cucumbers and pole beans to climb for easy picking.

Cucumbers can also be planted by a trellis. You can also plant onions, radishes carrots and beets. Sugar bush watermelon, Minnesota Midget and Sweet' N Early muskmelon can be grown in containers.

Herbs can be grown near the kitchen to use in cooking. Basil, chives, marjoram and thyme are easily grown in containers and then can be brought in and grown inside for winter use.



Water your containers when needed. Letting the plants dry out can cause stress to your plant. If your container is light to lift, it is probably dry and needs watered. Water the plants until water runs out the bottom of the container.

Fertilizers and plant food can be washed out when watering plants. You will need to replace fertilizers and plant food. This can be done by adding fertilizer/plant food to your water. Put fertilizer/plant food in a watering can for every other watering. This will keep your plants healthy. A watering system could be installed to keep plants watered while you are away. Refer to K-State Research and Extension publication MF-2066.

Planting radishes and lettuce in containers with large plants works well also. You can harvest your smaller vegetables before the larger plants grow to full size.

Happy planting and enjoy your harvest. You can refer to the K-State website for more horticulture information.



References for this lesson are the following:

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service MF-2873 *Growing Vegetables in Pots*,. By Ted Carey, Extension Specialist, Vegetable Crops, April, 2009

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service S51 (Rev.) *Kansas Garden Guide*, by Charles W. Marr, Ted Carey, Raymond Cloyd, and Megan Kennelly, March 2010

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service EP-31, *Container Gardening*, by Charles W. Marr, May 1998.

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