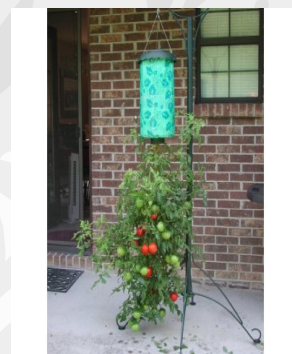


SMALL SCALE VEGETABLE GARDENING

GARDENING IN CONTAINERS

Almost any vegetable can be grown in a container. Tomatoes & herbs are probably the most popular choices for growing in pots. Listed below are some basic easy steps to follow when you get ready to plant.

1. **BIGGER IS BETTER.** Size does matter when you grow vegetables in containers. There are a few smaller, dwarf varieties that do need smaller containers, but those are the exception rather than the rule.
2. Make sure the container has drainage holes. If it doesn't, you need to create some.
3. Use a well-balanced potting mix. Potting mix should be mixed 50/50 with a heavier soil such as topsoil. Mix in Soil Moist to help the soil retain water.
4. 99% of vegetables and herbs like full sun— be sure they get it! They will perform better in the sun.
5. Use either a slow release fertilizer like Osmocote 14-14-14 (green label), or Garden-tone, if you prefer an organic fertilizer. Potted veggies are heavy feeders.
6. Keep an eye out for insects. Just because your veggies aren't planted in the ground, doesn't mean they are immune to insects and pests.
7. Stake or cage your plants if they need it.
8. Good watering is essential!!!! Be sure to check your plants daily. But remember, if you have a small plant in a large container, it won't need water as often as you might think. All that soil will retain the water, and the plant will suffer and die from too much water and too little oxygen.



Also, consider putting the pot up on pot feet or pot risers to help drainage and air circulation.