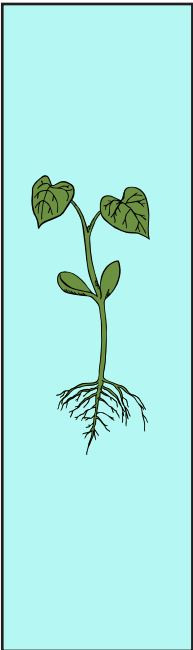


Starting Your Container Garden

SUPPLIES

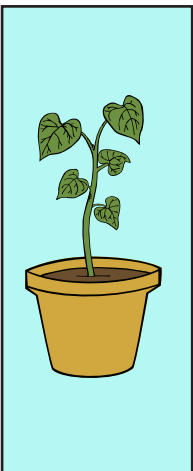
Planted seed · Container · Water · Natural fertilizer · Watering can or hose

CARING FOR YOUR SEEDLING



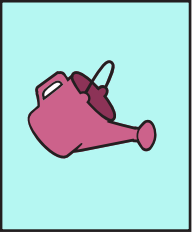
- 1 Put your planted seed somewhere in the house where the temperature doesn't change much, such as on top of your refrigerator.
- 2 Check your container every day for moisture—it should be moist, but not wet. Add water with a spray bottle as needed. Once the seedling sprouts, mist it once or twice a day.
- 3 Once your seedling sprouts, it will need light. A windowsill works in late spring or summer. At other times, use a grow light or fluorescent light fixed about three inches above the seedling.
- 4 A week after the seedling appears, add some diluted liquid fertilizer, such as seaweed extract (follow package instructions).
- 5 For an outdoor container garden, you will need to harden off the seedling. Two weeks before transferring it to the larger container, begin bringing your seedling outside. Choose a sheltered location, such as a shady or covered area. Start with an hour and double the time it spends outdoors each day.

PREPARING YOUR CONTAINER GARDEN



- 1 Find a good container with half-inch drainage holes, such as a planter box, hanging basket, terra cotta pot, plastic nursery pot, or a five-gallon bucket. For vegetables, bigger is better.
- 2 Find a spot in your house or your yard that gets a lot of sun throughout the day. Balconies, windowsills, fences, and porches can all be great places for a container garden.
- 3 Fill your container with soil. Don't use garden soil, as it tends to compact. Potting mixes from nurseries work well.
- 4 Make a hole in the soil, water your seedling, carefully remove it from the original container, and plant it with its soil in the hole. Firm the soil down and water well.

CARING FOR YOUR CONTAINER GARDEN



Watering: Container plants lose moisture quickly. Water them every day in the heat of summer. Watering early in the morning or in the evening is best.

Fertilizing: Containers also lose nutrients quickly and should be fertilized once a week after the plant is firmly established. Liquid fish emulsion or liquid seaweed are good fertilizers for container gardens. Follow the instructions on the container for the amount to use.

RESOURCES

For questions about gardening, contact your local nursery or garden store, or check out the resources below.

Books:

The Bountiful Container (McGee and Stuckey)

The Edible Container Garden (M. Guerra)

The Container Gardening Encyclopedia (S. Phillips)

Web sites:

www.gardenguides.com

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1647.html>

www.gardening.cornell.edu/factsheets/misc/containers.pdf

Enjoy your garden!

Information provided by

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