



Edible SPOTS & POTS

Small-Space Gardens for Growing
VEGETABLES *and* **HERBS**
in Containers, Raised Beds, and More



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Edible Spots & Pots: Growing Vegetables In Containers

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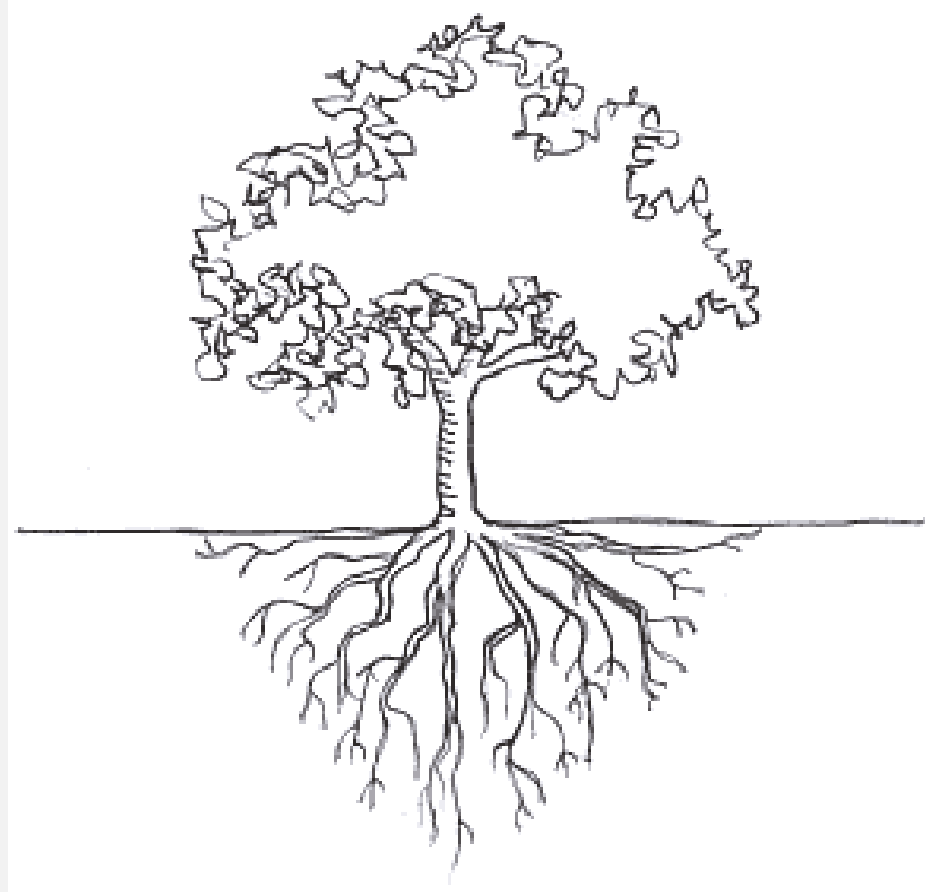






So, what can you grow in a container?

What *CAN'T* you grow in a container?!



The primary limit to growing in a container is the root-to-top relationship

**RULE ONE (and the only rule!):
Grow what you and your family enjoy
most.**





Second, consider
what can you
purchase locally
with excellent
quality and at a
good price.



When space is at a premium, opt for the most productive types of vegetables.



Use your space
for
continuously-
bearing
vegetables...

...over those that take an entire season to produce one single vegetable



*but always refer to RULE ONE first.

Maximize your harvest by choosing varieties that offer more than one edible part.

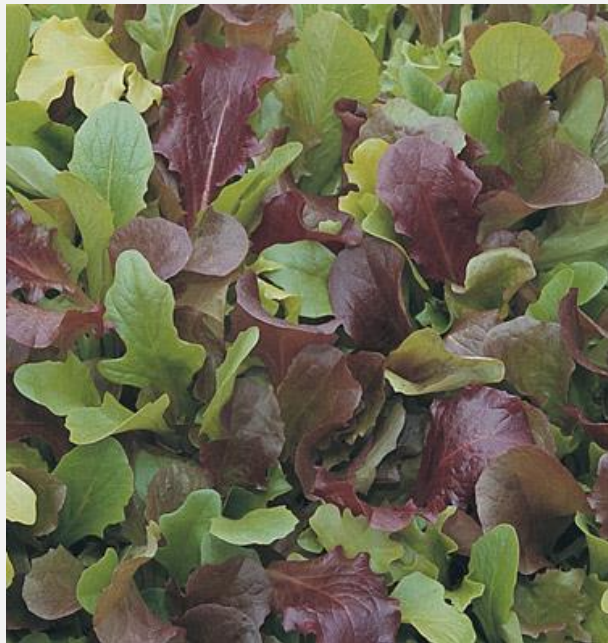


Get the most from your container growing by choosing quick-maturing varieties:

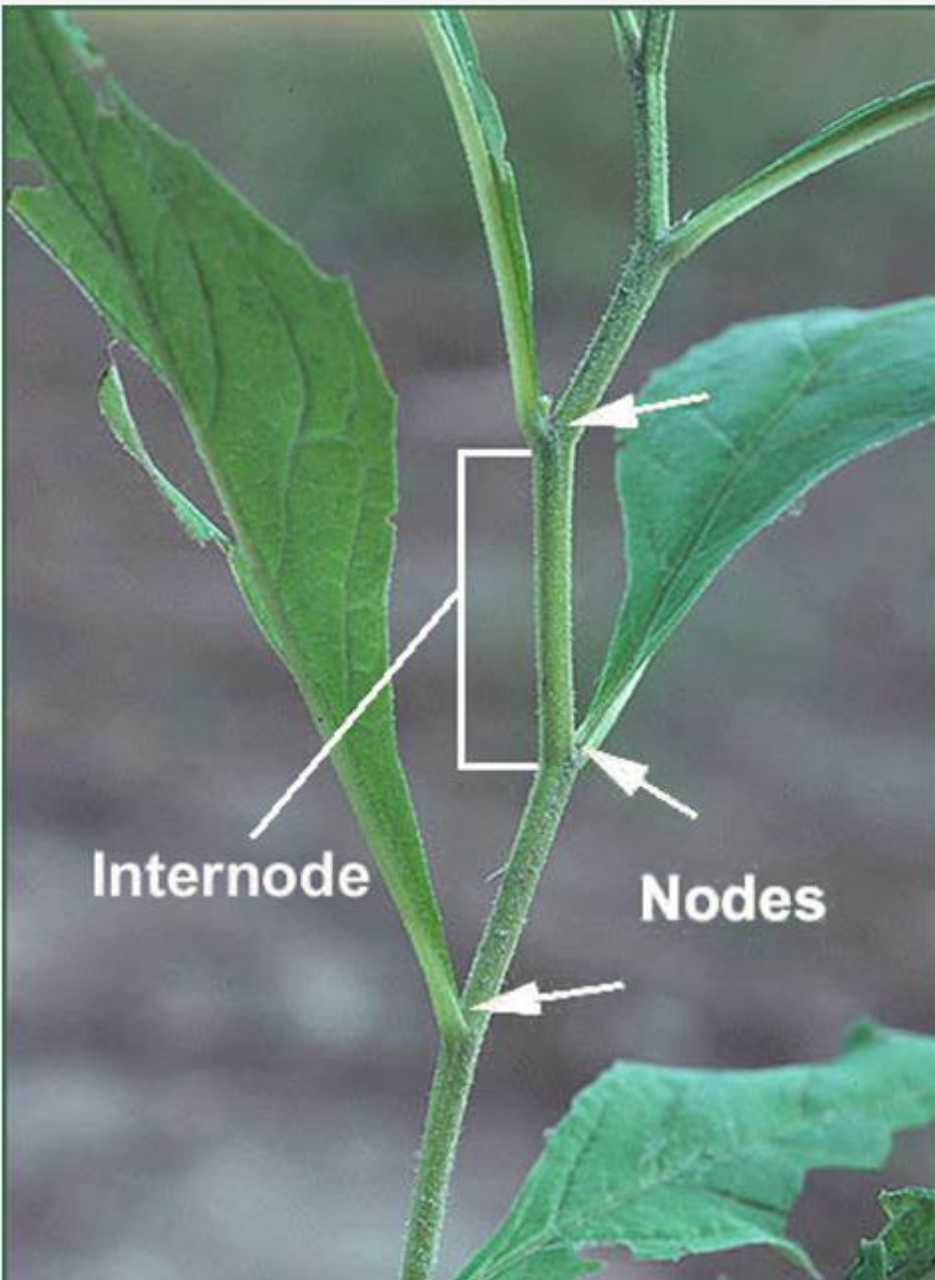


'Rover' radish - 21 days

'Caracas' carrot - 57 days, can be harvested as true baby carrot.



Wildfire lettuce mix - 24 days, "cut and come again"



Look for dwarf
varieties of space-
hogging vegetables









Choose
containers of
the appropriate
volume for the
crop you want to
grow...

Tomatoes, cucumbers,
and squash should have
at least an 18-22" wide
and 18"+ deep pot -
other crops can be
more flexible. For
maximum productivity,
errring on the side of
caution means using a
bigger container.

Containers must have - or be able to have added -
drainage holes



Can I use any soil in containers?



Field soils (i.e., native soil) are created over time from bedrock. They are composed of varying amounts of sand, silt, and clay. However, when dug and placed in a container, they tend to compress, limiting air space and hence drainage. They are also extremely heavy.

Potting soils are a mix of organic matter, like peat, compost, perlite, and vermiculite - they contain NO true soil.



They are extremely lightweight and difficult to compress. They are highly porous, hence creating fast drainage while retaining moisture.



Re-use potting soil
from previous
seasons,
recharging it with
50%+ compost

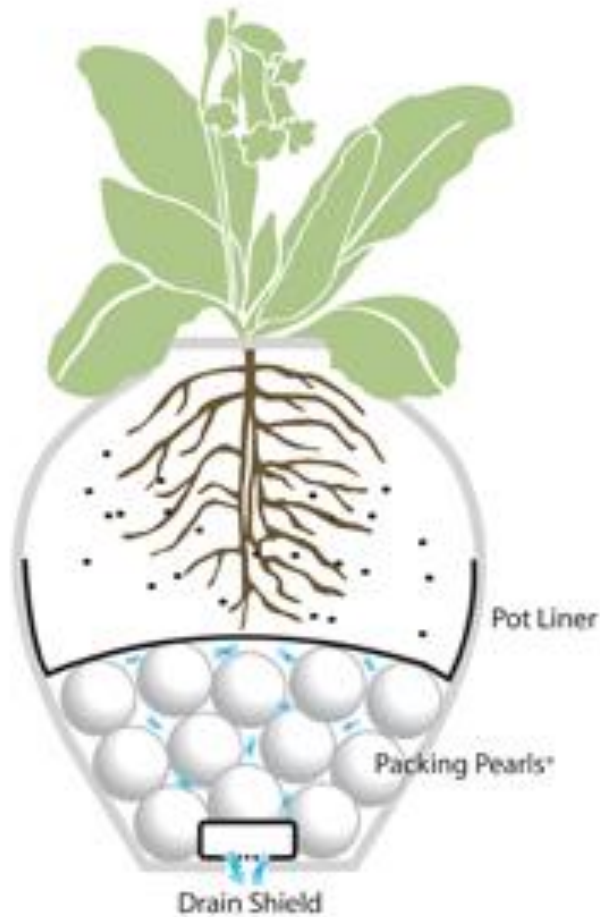


Or blend your own, based on compost, bark, and sand

Plan on using about half and half, but you can add small amounts of vermiculite, perlite, or old potting soil.

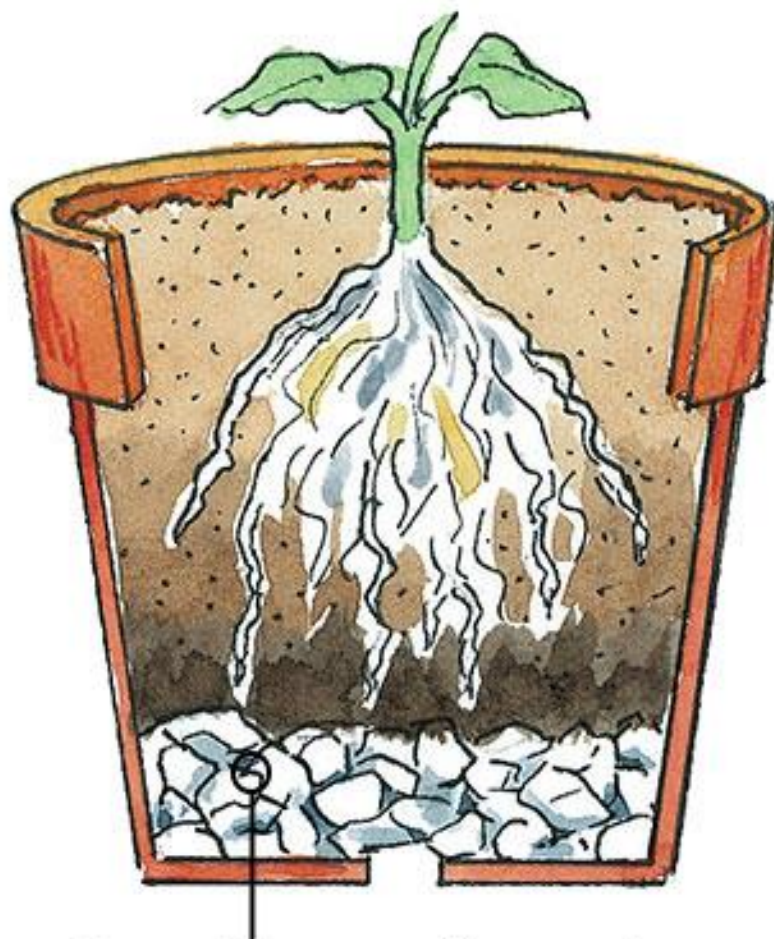


There are numerous products & “solutions” for using less potting soil in your containers:





The wettest soil is at the bottom.



Gravel moves the wettest soil up in the pot, closer to the roots, which can lead to rot.





Fertilize regularly during the growing season with a liquid fertilizer.

During the heat of summer, container vegetable plantings will probably require water every day.



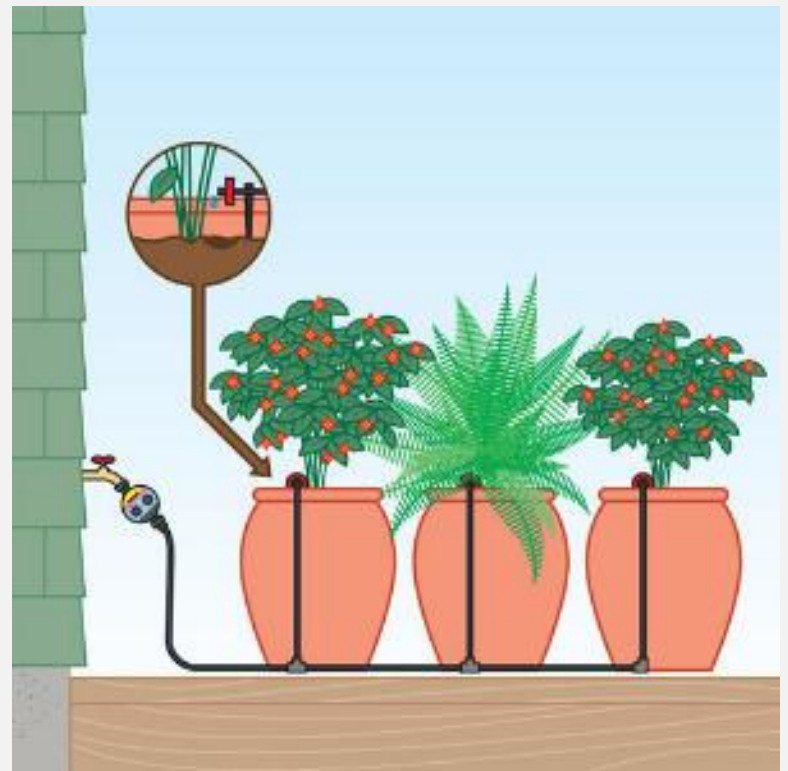
Clay pots, in particular, dry out easily, as they also give off water from their entire surface.

What about self-watering containers?



Drip irrigation is perfectly suited to container gardening - and vegetables LOVE it!

- High water need means you get to spend your time enjoying your garden, not watering it - and you can go on vacation without worrying about your plants.
- Tubing can be hidden in back of railings or along the edge of a patio, making the system almost invisible.



May 15, 2010 - vegetable garden just planted.



May 31, 2010 - just back from vacation





Many thanks for
your time and
attention.
Here's to a
delicious,
productive
season!