

Dwarf Varieties For Pint-Sized Gardens

Test - pocket vegetables for pint-sized gardens is the answer for those who want to grow their own but who don't have sufficient space to do so.

Making it all possible are the new dwarf varieties now being produced.

You can now grow tomatoes in a flower pot, watermelon in a window box, or a field of corn no bigger than a scatter rug.

You can grow cantaloupe the size of a softball, tender ears of corn only four inches long, baby cucumbers on two-foot vines, dwarf lettuce as tight as your fist and not much bigger.

In short, you could grow a whole truck garden in a bad-minister court -- and the bonus is that these miniatures are generally tastier and more tender than the full-sized variety. They also mature earlier.

BEANS: All modern beans are dwarfs compared to the original climbers, but for green varieties try Spring Green (ready to harvest within 41 days of sowing) or Topcrop (48 days), Pencil Pod Black Wax is a vigorous bush type of wax bean that

grows only 15 inches high and is ready to harvest in 51 days.

CABBAGE: Morden Midget, the earliest of all cabbages, is a true dwarf that produces delicious, grapefruit-sized heads about two months after the plants are set out.

CANTALOUPE (Muskmelon): Minnesota Midget's three-foot vines bear flavorful, four-inch melons just right for individual servings. Summer heat and a rich, light soil are needed, but they only take about 60 days to ripen.

CARROTS: Tiny Sweet is a very early, gourmet-type baby carrot that is very high in sugar content and small enough to serve whole, raw, cooked, or preserved.

BURPEE'S 1968 introduction, Popcorn, is another good miniature carrot. Both are ready to eat about two months after sowing.

CORN: Interesting novelties as well as tasty eaters are the early dwarf varieties Golden Midget, with four-inch cobs, and Golden Miniature, which is only slightly larger. The plants are only about four feet high, and

ready for harvest about 60 days after sowing.

CUCUMBERS: Tiny Dill has small, blunt fruit on two-foot vines. Baby Mincus is slightly larger. In a very small space, both produce heavy yields of fine quality cucumbers about 55 to 60 days after sowing.

LETTUCE: Tom Thumb is a true dwarf head lettuce - sweet, crisp, and well-formed. Midget Sugar Cos is a small, early variety of the tightly-bunched, so-called celery lettuce.

PEAS: Tiny Tim is the earliest of all peas, with extremely dwarf, bushy plants only eight to 10 inches high bearing a heavy crop. Such standard varieties as Alaska, Little Marvel, and Blue Bantam (or Peter Pan) are also quite small, heavy averaging about 15 inches high.

PEPPERS: Sweet Cherry Red is a new type of miniature salad pepper, nearly round and only an inch wide. The plants are about 18 inches high.

PUMPKINS: Even miniature pumpkins take up too much

room for a really small garden, but Cheese Bush produces one-pumpkin about as big as a small football on plants that are only two feet across.

SQUASH: Baby Butternut is a miniature squash, only six or seven inches long, with relatively compact vines.

TOMATOES: The only true dwarf variety is Tiny Tim, with golfball-sized fruit that ripens about 45 days after setting out. The plants grow from eight to 16 inches high, depending on how well they are fed. Specially selected seed is available for indoor and pot growing.

Other relatively dwarf varieties include Rocket, Patio and two early, miniature types, Starfire and Fireball, with medium-sized fruit.

WATERMELON: Here's a real novelty item with excellent flavor and great convenience. Market Midget is a true dwarf watermelon only about seven or eight inches long, with few seeds, rich, sweet flesh and a thin rind. It fits perfectly in the refrigerator and is just right for use or two servings. Since it only takes about 67 days to mature, it can be grown where other melons can't.

For seeding, indoors or out, just cover the seed; don't bury it. A good rule is to cover the seed twice its thickness. Tamp the soil down lightly and keep it damp at all times.

Learn to be ruthless about thinning. Half as many plants as will grow in a given area will produce twice the yield. Even the miniatures need room to grow without competition.

You can save space, however, by growing early and late vegetables together - radishes between the carrots and beans, early peas between the beans.

Young tomato plants can be set among the lettuce, radishes, or onions. Such vine plants as peas, cucumbers, melons, and tomatoes will take much less space and ripen faster if they are grown on a wire mesh.

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Sombrero New Zinnia Spectacular

Sombrero -- the name conjures up visions of laborers working in the sun, heads guarded by the wide, straw hats. Or, of men donning in a shady corner, hats over their faces.

But the zinnia named Sombrero is a "wake-up" flower, centered brilliant red, changing to gold, clear out to the tips of the petals.

When you first look at a flower the tones seem to change abruptly. As you look closer you'll find this is not so; the colors merge, one with the other.

The gay blossoms grow to about 2 1/2 inches in diameter and the plants are well covered with them. Spectacular in the garden, blooms are equally noticeable in the house; long-lasting when cut for indoor use.



BI-COLORED, bright red and golden, is this zinnia named Sombrero, a new introduction for your 1969 garden. It's a sensation when used either indoors or out.

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