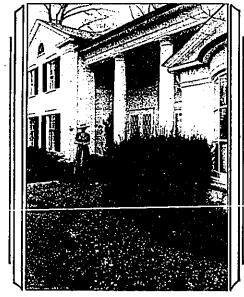


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Container gardening: Grow a bushel of produce

Garden without a garden. Sounds crazy, doesn't it? But if you've got enough room outside for a container the size of a bushel basket, you have enough room to grow some pretty impressive vegetative.

Many vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant and cauliflower do quite well when grown in containers on use almost any type of container — a plastic garbage pail, wooden boxes or tubs and cans. What matters is that the container is the right depth for the vegetables you're in tended to grow.

A plant can grow successfully if its container has a certain minimum depth. Here are some minimum depths recommended by Ortho for vegetable that can be grown in container.

The first registrate that can be grown in containers:

 4 inches deep — lettuce, turnips, radishes, beets and all the low growing

• 6 inches deep — chard, kohlrabi, short carrots such as "Baby Fingers" and the root crops listed above.

 10 inches deep — cauliflower, broccoli and brussel sprouts.

 12 inches deep — parsnips, salsify, long-rooted carrois and tomatoes, ASIDE FROM DEPTH, the other major

ASIDE FROM DEPTH, the other major considerations when choosing a container are portability, fertilizing and watering. You will probably want to move your vegetable-growing container at some point, so keep it a manageable size. Bear in mind also that the more shallow a

container, the more often it will need to be watered and fertilized.

Once you've selected an appropriate container for the vegetables you're planning to grow, the next step is to ensure that you get a maximum yield for the square feet you have available, in other words, get the most out of your containers by choosing vegetables that can be planted close together.

planted close together.

A planting chart will tell you which vegetable needs only a small space between them. Beets, carrots and radishes are examples of vegetables that requires a maximum of just two inches between plants.

Another way to get the most out of your small-space garden is to select plants that grow up instead of out. Pole beans, for example, yield more per plant than bush beans, and an upright planter of lettuce can be the equivalent of a whole row in the ground. You'll also make good use of your space by growing "minature" or "bush" varieties of vegetables.

After you've selected the containers you want and the vegetables to grow in them, the final step is to stagger your plantings so you have at least one crop reaching maturity at all times during the growing season. For example, if you're working with six containers, plant two boxes early in the season, two in the middle and two late. That way you should have just the right amount of vegetables at the right time.

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