



CONTAINER GARDENING

Any contribution to a greener planet helps to save pollinators, mitigate climate change, and create a more sustainable society. Container gardening is an easy and productive way to save nature with limited space.

CHOOSING A CONTAINER

Size & Material

- Choose a container that fits the space available and the requirements of the plant(s) such as water level and root size – the taller the plant the more root space it will need
- Porous containers like clay and hypertufa are best for plants that like dryer well-drained soil like cacti and succulents
- Use non-porous and plastic containers for plants that need more soil moisture
- Orchids and air plants need airflow through roots and grow best in crate like planters

Color

- Select a color and design that you like but use light colored containers in hot climates

Drainage

- Make sure there are adequate drainage holes in the bottom of the container
- Put a layer of gravel or small stones in the bottom of the container
- Plastic screen works well placed over drainage holes to stop soil from coming out
- Set outdoor plants on bricks or blocks to allow for drainage
- Use self-watering pots for indoor plants, vegetables, or those with higher water needs

LIGHT

- Sunlight Orientation of Plant:
 - South and West facing: most intense sunlight hours
 - East-facing: moderate, morning rays
 - North-facing: weak exposure
- Determine the duration and intensity of sunlight needed and place in an area that fits those requirements
 - Full Sun: 6+ hrs. of sun/day (does not imply the plant can handle intense heat or dry conditions)
 - Partial Sun/Shade: 3-6 hrs. of sun/day (eastern orientation is ideal for blocking hot west afternoon rays)
 - Partial Shade/Filtered Sunlight: (filtered light in area away from direct sunlight)
 - Shade: no direct exposure to sunlight only indirect or reflected

WATER

- For most plants, keep soil damp but neither wet nor dry
- Established native plants require minimal watering
- Water frequently during hot dry weather
- Use drippers attached to irrigation systems

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Saving nature in your backyard

SOIL AND FERTILIZER

- Make your own soil:
 - 1-part coconut coir or peat moss
 - 1-part compost for fertilizer
 - 1-part perlite
 - 1-part top soil
- Do not compact soil - keep it loose around roots

WIND

- Most plants prefer a light breeze, nothing more or less
- Provide a wind block in areas of high wind like rooftop decks or high balconies

CHOOSING THE PLANTS

- Use the filler, thriller, and spiller design tip:
 - Thriller: Vertical plants placed in the center or back of container that add height, drama, and color
 - Filler: Smaller mounded plants placed around the thriller plant(s)
 - Spiller: Trailing plants place around the edge of the container that hang over
- Choose [pollinator friendly native plants](#) wherever possible
- Some planter ideas:
 - Herb Planter (like basil, chives, parsley, cilantro)
 - Vegetable Planter (like tomato, peppers)
 - Flower Planter

SPACE-SAVING TIPS

- If space is limited attach planters to wall, lattice or fence or use vertical containers with openings for plants around them