

Container Gardening Tips & Tricks

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Pots are thirsty. They dry out quickly. Try not to let your container garden dry out completely between watering, but don't water so much that plants are constantly saturated (this can cause rot and mold) - sticking to a watering schedule helps. Have drainage. Many containers come with built-in drainage: holes in the bottom. Also think about raising your pots up off the surface this can be done with pot "feet" or plant stands. This will help the water run out and away from the pot and stop algae and mold from growing under the pot.



Think about how placement will affect watering needs. A hot or windy spot will cause a container to dry out faster. The pot's material also comes into play: a nonporous material like plastic will slow water loss, while a porous unglazed terra-cotta pot will speed up drying. Taking all of this into account, either commit to checking and potentially watering containers at least once a day, or pair low-water plants with pots and positions that can be predicted to dry rapidly. Water loss can be slowed with the use of mulch, just like in garden beds. Clustering pots together helps to slow evaporation, too. As a bonus, container-plant care goes quicker and easier when pots stand together in groups.

Location: Container growing allows you to maximize sun, as they can be moved around to get more light as the season change. **Balconies & Rooftops** can be windy. If growing in containers

on a balcony or roof, consider setting up some kind of windbreak, like lattice, that won't cast shade and place pots close together so they brace against each other.



Soil: Use a light potting mix, but be sure to mix in nutrient rich compost. Balcony tip: add extra perlite to the potting mix to make the mix even lighter. Fruiting plants (like tomatoes or strawberries) need more nutrients than greens and herbs. Succession sow. To get the most food out of a limited space, plant seeds in staggered succession. Succession sowing means introducing seeds in intervals as plants mature and naturally decline in productivity; this allows growers to increase yields over a longer period of time. Many crops mature before the end of the growing season, which is why staggering sowings ensures a steady flow

of harvests. Be sure to add compost and nutrients between sowings to keep the soil healthy and productive.

Maximize your growing space - Go Vertical! Growing up a trellis or obelisk or use a vertical multi-tiered plant stands to arrange a several pots vertically in a smaller space.

Balcony Tip: Make a pot lighter by creating a space in the middle using a another empty pot.



Wire it in for stability. Find a suitable plastic container turn it upside down and place in the larger pot. Run wire through the bottom pots drainage hole through inside pot and tie together.

Grow Smaller Varieties; check out the article about mini veggies that grow well in containers.

