

Seattle Tilth

CONTAINER GARDENING RESOURCE SHEET

Materials for Container Gardening

Good Commercial Brands of Potting Soil for Edibles

- Cedar Grove Potting Soil
- Whitney Farms Premium Potting Soil
- Black Gold Organic Potting Soil

Basic Potting Soil Recipe from the Maritime NW Garden Guide:

1 part coco coir
1 part perlite
1 part sand or pumice
1 part compost

Organic Liquid Fertilizers for Edibles

- Fox Farm Tiger Bloom or Grow Big Organic Liquid Fertilizer
- Earth Juice Bloom or Grow Fertilizer
- Alaska Fish Fertilizer
- Age Old Organics Liquid Bloom and Grow
- Worm Tea Concentrate from Squim Prairie Enterprises (sold at the Ballard Farmer's Market & local stores)

Watering Tips

- Try and water first thing in the morning to conserve water and, so your containers don't dry out in the middle of the day.
- Watering Wands with shower heads and a shut-off valve are great for everyday watering, especially if you have hanging baskets or hard to reach containers.
- Watering cans with removable spray nozzles are great for watering a few containers and for fertilizing.
- Small rain barrels can hold captured water on decks or patios.
- Patio drip irrigation kits can be set on a timer to water regularly for vacations or sunny spots that dry out quickly.
- Go to www.gardeners.com for more watering ideas

VEGETABLE AND HERB VARIETIES FOR CONTAINERS

Vegetable/Herb	Varieties or traits to look for	Minimum Container Size Needed
CUCUMBER	Any bush or semi-bush variety	Shallow, wide 3 - 5 gallon container
EDIBLE FLOWERS	Calendula, marigolds, petunias, nasturtium, pansies, alyssum and violas	6" deep or more
EGGPLANT	All kinds with smaller fruit	3 gallon container
GREENS	Kale, chard, lettuce, spinach, mustard greens, pac choi, radicchio and arugula	Window boxes or any container at least 6 inches deep
MELON	Look for compact or bush varieties	Shallow, wide 5 gallon container
ONIONS	All types	8" - 10" deep or more
PEPPERS	Any sweet or hot pepper variety	3 gallon container
STRAWBERRIES	Any kind	Strawberry pot or any container at least 6" – 8" deep
SUMMER SQUASH	Bush varieties	Large container 3 – 5 gallons
TOMATOES	Determinate or bush varieties and ones with fruit on the small side	5 gallons
ANNUAL HERBS	Basil, cilantro, dill, chamomile, chervil and shiso	6 – 10" deep or more
PERENNIAL HERBS	Rosemary, thyme, hyssop, sage, lavender, mint, oregano, marjoram, catnip and verbena	The larger the container, the better they will grow. Try a 3 – 5 gallon container planted with 3 different herbs to start.