

Container Gardening Basics

Advantages to Gardening in Containers

No matter your budget, taste and gardening experience container gardening is right for you. Here are some great reasons why:

- No Ground Necessary! No digging or weeding, plus less pest damage.
- Instant Garden Gratification- Create a focal point, liven-up a static area, cover-up an eyesore, or improve an already wonderful garden display.
- Movable and/or Changeable- When you are bored with a plant remove it!
- Small Space Gardens- Great for city dwellers, patios and porches.
- Tender or Fickle Plants- Now grow plants that require specific environments, soils, and protection (e.g. rock garden plants prefer dry, gritty soils not clay).
- Comfort Gardening- Physically challenged individuals can position their containers for comfortable gardening while seated or standing.

Selecting a Container

There are thousands of containers to choose from, so consider the materials in which they are made and where you are to display them in order to select a type.

- Types
 1. Hanging baskets or pots
 2. Wall planters or sconces
 3. Window boxes or baskets
 4. Floors planters, pots, troughs, cradles, bowls
 5. Misc. planters, tiered planters, topiary forms, pedestals, self-watering, etc.

Essentials of Container Gardening

- Drainage/Liner- hardware cloth, gravel, Styrofoam peanuts, coco-liners, sphagnum moss, etc...
- Potting mix- Petitti Potting Soil or Petitti Planting Mix for larger containers.
- Fertilizer- Liquid vs. solid. For easier maintenance, Angelo recommends a granular, slow-release food like Osmocote and/or Whitney Farms All Purpose Plant Food.
- Water- polymers like Soil Moist help reduce watering maintenance.
- Theme- formal, informal, simple, eclectic, tropical, Asian, monochromatic, etc.

Plant Selection

- Know your site- sun, wind, rain, snow and temperatures to be considered.
- Do research- go to the library, get on the web, visit our stores, and find some inspiration.
- Flower vs. Foliage- always remember to incorporate exciting foliage plants in your container garden to provide interest when the flowers are not in bloom like Coleus, Dichondra, Lamium, sweet potato and licorice vines.
- Plant shape or growth habit- consider a combination of upright plants, medium sized fillers and trailing plants(“thriller, filler & spiller”) to create depth and interest in the container garden.

Annuals/ Tropicals

All do excellent in containers, site & habit important

Sun

Alyssum
Bacopa
Bidens
Cannas
Citrus
Dahlia
Diascia
Dianthus
Geranium
Heliotrope
Hibiscus
Lantana
Mandevilla
Nasturtium
Nemesia
Osteospermum
Petunia
Pentas
Scaevola
Salvia
Vinca
Verbena
Zinnia

Shade

Ageratum
Begonia
Browalia
Caladium
Coleus
Cyclamen
Fuchsia
Impatiens
Lamium
Nicotiana
Pansy/ Viola
Streptocarpella
Snapdragon
Torenia

Perennials

Best with invasive or fickle plants; protect over winter in the garage

Sun

Achillea
Alcea
Armeria
Artemisia
Bamboo
Campanula
Coreopsis
Dianthus
Echinacea
Gaillardia
Grasses
Geranium
Hemerocallis
Iberis
Leucanthemum
Liatris
Ligularia
Oenothera
Papaver
Sedum
Veronica

Shade

Anemone
Astilbe
Brunnera
Dicentra
Epimedium
Helleborus
Heuchera
Hosta
Lamium
Liriope
Myosotis
Polygonatum
Primula
Tiarella
Trycirtis
Vinca

Fruits/ Vegetables

Most work well; try a combination of bush & trailing types

Cold Crops

Broccoli
Brussel Sprouts
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Collards
Endive
Kale
Kohlrabi
Lettuce
Radish
Spinach

Warm Crops

Beans
Beets
Blueberry
Cantaloupe
Carrots
Celery
Corn
Cucumber
Figs
Gourds
Honeydew
Melons
Okra
Onions
Peppers
Pumpkins
Strawberries
Squash, Summer
Squash, Winter
Swiss Chard
Tomatoes
Watermelon
Zucchini

Herbs

Most work well especially annual types that you can bring indoors for the winter

Annuals

Basil
Borage
Calendula
Chamomile
Chevрил
Cilantro
Curry
Dill
Fennel
Hyssop
Lavender, some
Lemon Grass
Marjoram
Parsley
Pennyroyal
Rosemary
Rue
Sage
Salad Burnet
Savory
Scented Geranium
Stevia
Tarragon

Perennials

Bee balm
Catnip
Chives
Flax
Garlic
Lady's Mantle
Lavender
Mint
Mullein
Oregano
St. John's Wort
Thyme
Valerian
Wormwood

Trees/ Shrubs

Best if dwarf/miniature varieties are used; protect over winter in the garage

Sun

Alberta Spruce
Barberry
Boxwood
Cherry
Crabapple
Dogwood, shrub
Euonymus
Forsythia
Hinoki Cypress
Juniper
Lilac
Magnolia
Mugho Pine
Roses
Spiraea
Weigela

Shade

Boxwood
Clethra
Daphne
Dogwood, tree
Fringe tree
Holly
Hydrangea
Japanese Maple
Leucothoe
Microbiota
Mountain Laurel
Pieris
Rhododendron
Viburnum



Please visit us online @ www.petittigardencenters.com for the complete library of Angelo's Gardening Guides.