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
  - 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
  - Tricyrtis
  - 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
  - Chevrel
  - 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