



Container Gardening

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Sometimes 1'x1' (square foot) gardens are known as container gardens. I have even heard raised beds referred to as container gardens. What I am addressing here are vegetables grown in pots or buckets of various sizes. Varieties listed are open pollinated (non-hybrid).

It is my recommendation that you plant vegetables where you can get maximum nutrition from the smaller space. Beets and radishes can be used for the leaves and the roots. Plant varieties with longer roots rather than rounder roots. This would include radishes, beets, and carrots, for example. Use deeper pots for these plants. The tendrils on pea plants can be eaten. Spinach, kale, and chard have more nutrition than lettuce.

Some vegetables suitable for container gardening:

- **Beans** (bush beans that grow from about 20" up to about 24", yield in about 55 days)
 - Nickel Filet (tender, good producer)
 - Golden Roc d'Or (tender, stringless, yellow)
 - Purple Queen (tender, stringless, purple)
 - Green Slenderette (tender, stringless, green)
 - Pencil Pod Golden Wax (tender, stringless, yellow wax bean)
 - Beurre De Rocquencourt (early, good flavor, yellow)
 - Burpee's Stringless (very early, stringless, green)
 - Landreth Stringless (meaty, heavy yields, green)
 - Red Swan (early, tolerates cool soil and weather, red)
- **Beets** (long rather than round)
 - Cylindra (sweet, tender flesh, very uniform shape)
 - MacGregor's Favorite (tender, delicious leaves)
 - Crapaudine (oldest variety known, 1000 years old, a little difficult)
- **Brassicas** (cabbage and mustard family, early, like cool weather)
 - Bok Choi
 - Rainbow Tatsoi (good for salads)
 - Rosette Tatsoi (larger head, good for salads)
 - Barese Swiss Chard
 - Tuscan Baby Leaf Kale

Container Gardening *(continued)*

- **Carrots**
 - Little Finger (small)
 - Babette (small)
 - any standard variety like Scarlet Nantes
- **Corn** (for those who must have corn!)
 - Orchard Baby (early, sweet, 3'-5')
- **Edible Flowers**
 - Dwarf Nasturtium [radish flavor – leaves (can substitute for watercress), flowers, buds, seeds (can substitute for capers if brined)]
 - Irish Lace Marigold (licorice flavor – tea, salad, seafood)
 - Sweet Mace Marigold (also known as Mexican tarragon, anise flavor, substitute for French tarragon)
 - Lemon or Tangerine Gem Marigold
 - Calendula (peppery or bitter flavor)
 - Dandelion (leaves, roots, and flowers)
- **Greens**
 - Machê (corn salad)
 - Watercress (needs running water such as a hydroponic set up)
- **Herbs** (Almost anything works except maybe those that would grow bush size because of space restrictions. Here are a few suggestions)
 - Pot Cilantro
 - Midget Savory
 - Emily Basil
 - Any mint
- **Lettuces** (Almost any variety works except maybe those that grow huge like the giant Blue Feather Leaf which reaches 4' tall – that would need some room!
- **Onions**
 - Grolau Chives or any other type
 - Any type of bunching onions like Evergreen, Welsh, Red Beard, Deep Purple
 - Garlic
 - Zebrune Shallot
- **Peas** (edible pods)
 - Dwarf Grey Sugar
 - Tom Thumb
 - Patio Pride
- **Peppers** (Most pepper varieties, both sweet and hot, can be grown in containers.)
 - Yummy Belles (orange sweet)
 - Mini Bell Red (sweet)
 - Pizza My Heart (red sweet)
 - Early Flame Jalapeños



Container Gardening *(continued)*

- **Potatoes** (I have found success growing fingerling and smaller potatoes in containers. The container should be at least 24" across and at least 18" deep. There are some container designs that make harvesting from the bottom easier.

- <https://www.pinterest.com/haymanswife/grow-potatoes-in-containers/>

Here are some detailed instructions on growing potatoes in containers.

- <https://www.thespruce.com/growing-potatoes-in-containers-848220>

- **Radishes**

- White Icicle
- French Breakfast

- **Squash**

- Desi (round, small bush)
- Ronde de Nice (round, compact bush type)

- **Tomatoes**

- Tasmanian Chocolate
- Micro Tom
- Orange Hat

There are innumerable resources online to help you select what you want to plant in your containers. The list above is only a beginning. The limit is up to you!

Happy gardening!

