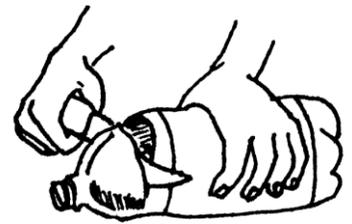




Container Gardening in 4 Easy Steps!

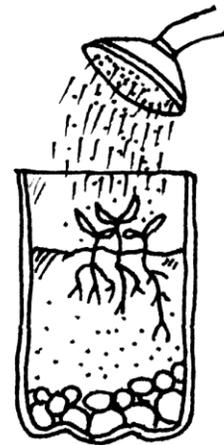
1. Use a container that is waterproof. If the opening is too narrow, cut it off. Then add drainage holes to the sides of the container, about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the bottom.



2. Put about 1 inch of coarse gravel in the bottom of the container for drainage. Fill your container $\frac{3}{4}$ full with good potting soil. Regular dirt won't drain very well and it doesn't have the nutrients your plant needs.



3. Plant either a small plant or two to three seeds in your container.
4. Gently water your plant until the soil is moist and place it in a spot that gets sun for most of the day. Water your plant when the soil gets too dry. If the weather gets too hot or too cold, just move your plant to a better spot!



What Should I Plant?

Good container plants include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, green onions, beans, lettuce, squash, radishes and parsley. Also, herbs like basil, mint and thyme are good, easy-to-grow choices. Think about the size of your container and the current growing season when deciding what to plant. Also, you may want to contact the Texas Agrilife Extension Service office in your county for advice. Go to: <http://texasextension.tamu.edu/contact/index.php>

How Big is Your Container?

- **Small containers (6 to 8 inches across):** try green onion, radishes, lettuces, parsley and herbs.
- **1 to 2 gallon containers:** best for dwarf tomatoes, chard, broccoli, cucumbers, spinach and carrots.
- **5 gallon containers:** try tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and squash and beans. Some plants, like tomatoes, need support as they grow taller. You can prop them up with tomato cages, a trellis, PVC pipe, etc.



What Time of Year is it?

- **Late Winter / Early Spring** is a good time to plant warm season crops like tomatoes, summer squash, eggplant, peppers, beans, okra, watermelon and most herbs. These plants prefer the warm temperatures of spring and early summer.
- **Late Summer / Early Fall** is a good time to plant broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, leaf lettuce, mustard greens, winter squash and turnips. These plants like cooler temperatures.