



Container Gardens for Food & Flavor

Stylizing

Choosing the right container is as important as choosing the right plants to grow in them. Glazed, embossed, elegant, textural, heavy, light, contemporary, or traditional; the choice of pot can be the style maker. Creating atmosphere, adding artistry and style can all be done with container gardens. Think of the container as an important part of the whole look you are trying to create. If the theme or mood call for a real terra cotta pot then use one, an imitation plastic one will never look right. If the color of the home, patio furniture or other things will be in direct view of the pot then coordinate the effort. Remember the colors of pottery are not seasonal; a color clash will never go away.

Planting and Care

Size

Use the right size for what is being grown in the pot. Balance the height and width of plants to the dimensions of the pot.

Drainage

Drainage of water through containers is an absolute must. Make sure the container has a drainage hole and the soil is not compacted.

Water

Water containers when dry, avoid over-watering, especially herbs with Mediterranean heritage like rosemary or lavender. How much water depends on weather, the plants requirements and the type of pot. Pots can dry quickly in the heat of the summer, so check often and only water as needed.

Potting soil

Use good old-fashioned organic mixes. Good soil makes good drainage. You can top dress with finished compost over seasons to add natural nutrients.

Plants

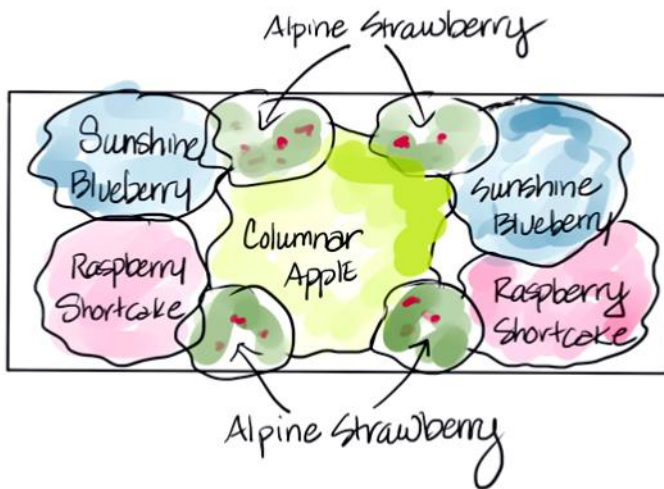
The mixture of plants or individually potted plants grouped together can make or break a good container garden setting. Don't be afraid to try out different combinations. Plants that have the same cultural needs such as shade, sun or heavy moisture should be planted together. Plants that are aggressive and fast growing should be planted by themselves or in large enough pots to not overtake other plants. Typically plants that are standouts and bold by themselves are good in mixed containers. Plants that are too similar in leaf shapes or sizes tend to meld together and the container has no interest or dimension.

Plant Pretty! Annual Edibles with Color & Texture

Basil: Purple Opal, Amethyst
Beans: Royal Burgundy
Brussels sprouts: Rubine
Cabbage: Ruby Ball
Calendula: Flashback
Leaf Lettuces
Lemon Gem Marigold
Nasturtium: Alaska Mix, Jewel Mix
Parsley: Extra Curled
Pineapple Sage: Golden
Swiss Chard: Bright Lights

Veggies, Fruits, Herbs for Container Gardens & Small Spaces

Apples: Columnar
Basil: Italian Cameo
Mini Window box
Blueberry: Sunshine Blue, Top Hat
Cucumber: Bush Slicer, Lemon, Spacemaster
Eggplant: Little Prince, Fairy Tale
Lavender: French Perfume, Hidcote
Melon: Lil Loupe
Peppers: Baby Belle, Pizza My Heart
Pumpkins: Baby Mini Jack
Raspberries: Raspberry Shortcake
Squash: Small Wonder, Bush Delicata
Thyme: Foxley
Tomato: Super Bush, Little Bites, Window Box Roma
Zucchini: 8 Ball, Patio Star



Seed and Plant Resources!

Shop your local Garden Stores first!

Hume Seeds: humeseeds.com (PNW local favorite and source for the "Spacemaster" bush cucumber)

Territorial: territorialseed.com (everything you need! West coast supplier)

Renee's Garden: reneesgarden.com (wonderful selection of container garden edibles)

Richters Herb Seeds: Richters.com (excellent herb seed supplier)

Johnny's seed: www.johnnyseeds.com (everything and good resource for bulk quantities)

Seed Savers Exchange: seedsavers.org (best source for heirloom, organic and Non-GMO)

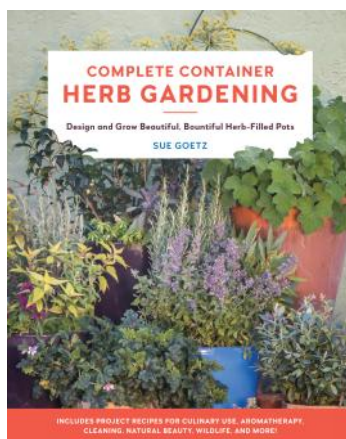
Raintree Nursery: raintreenursery.com (mail order source for common and unusual fruiting trees & shrubs)

Recipes, ideas and inspiration at HerbLoversGarden.com

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