

Container Gardening

“Let every Latter-day Saint that has land,
produce some valuable essential foodstuff thereon
and then preserve it.” Harold B Lee

Considerations:

Sun - most vegetable plants need full sun - at least 6 hours of direct light each day.

Heat - soil temperatures can get warmer in a container than in the ground and a cement patio can cause radiant heat. Make sure plants and roots are not getting too hot.

Water - container plants require a lot of water especially in the brutal heat of summer. Check plants daily or even twice daily during extreme heat.

Drainage - excess water can cause the roots to rot. Make sure the container has drainage holes. Drill several ¼ inch holes if it doesn't.

Container size - larger containers hold more soil and moisture. Make sure the roots have room to grow. Start with containers that are at least 10 inches wide and 12 inches deep.

Soil and nutrients - use a good potting mix made for containers and fertilize once a week after the first month. Do not reuse soil year after year. At the end of the season, discard the soil and sterilize the pot to reduce disease and infestations.

See <http://www.bhg.com/gardening/vegetable/vegetables/growing-vegetables-in-containers/> for more details.

Varieties that work well:

Choose compact or dwarf varieties. You can also stake or trellis full size varieties.

Beans: Blue Lake, Romano, Tender Crop

Broccoli: DeCicco, Green Comet

Carrots: Danvers Half Long, Short n Sweet, Tiny Sweet

Cucumbers: Patio Pik, Pot Luck, Spacemaster

Eggplant: Black Beauty, Ichiban, Slim Jim

Lettuce: Ruby, Salad Bowl

Onions: White Sweet Spanish, Yellow Sweet Spanish

Peppers: Cayenne, Long Red, Sweet Banana, Wonder, Yolo

Radishes: Cherry Belle, Icicle

Tomatoes: Early Girl, Small Fry, Sweet 100, Tiny Tim

See: <http://www.almanac.com/content/container-gardening-vegetables>

Ideas:

“Keep in good repair and beautify your homes, your yards, farms, and businesses...
Keep your lawns and your gardens well-groomed.”
Spencer W Kimball



See also: Family Home Evening Resource Book, page 307