



The Plant Professionals

## Container Gardening

- CONTAINERS:** Terra cotta pots – Classic, long lasting, wide variety of shapes and Sizes, heavy, breakable, can be freeze damaged.  
Plastic pots – Retains moisture, affordable, relatively light, sometimes holds to much water.  
The unorthodox – Almost anything can be adapted and used as a container, so long as drainage holes are added.
- MEDIUM:** Used potting mix, not garden or top soil. Potting mixes are formulated specifically for container gardening. Consider adding up to 50% expanded shale to improve tilth and drainage.
- SITE SELECTION:** Sun? Shade? Wind? North, south, east, or west? These factors are important for the next step.
- PLANT SELECTION:** Single plant, group of single variety, or mix of different plants? Annuals or perennials? Shrubs or trees? Color, foliage, texture?
- WATER:** Check daily! Most, but not all will need water daily.
- FERTILIZER:** Slow release is most convenient. I recommend using water soluble fertilizer at a weakened ratio.
- USES:** Holiday centerpiece, hide something ugly, dress up your porch, and make the neighbors jealous.
- STYLE:** Develop your own. Replicate something beautiful. Even Da Vinci and Mozart plagiarized on occasion; so don't feel guilty about swiping someone else's great idea.

Container gardening offers opportunities for experimentation, and a little style even for a small space like an apartment balcony. Experienced gardeners and novices can both be successful container gardeners.