

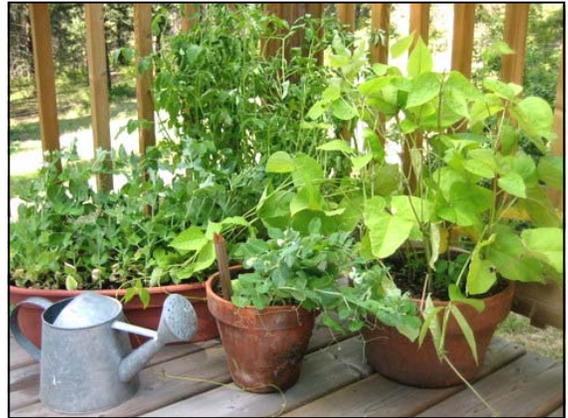


The Right Garden for You



Gardens come in all shapes and sizes and grow a wide variety of plants. The right garden for you depends on how much space you have and what you want to grow. **In this guide, we will be focusing on container vegetable gardens.** However, below you will learn a little about different kinds of gardens and can decide what is best for you and your family.

Container Garden: This type of garden can be grown in a wide variety of containers and takes up very little space. Containers can be big or small depending on how much space is available and what you want to grow.



Pros:

- Container gardens can be set up anywhere there is a sunny spot. Decks, patios, balconies, and other small outdoor spaces work great for container gardens.
- Container gardens need less water than in ground or raised bed gardens.
- Less weeding, digging, and maintenance are required with container gardens.

Cons:

- Small containers can dry out quickly.
- Large containers can be expensive.
- Not all plant varieties grow well in a container.
- Bagged potting soil is needed when planting in containers.

Windowsill Garden: These gardens are a fun way to test out your growing skills on a very small scale. If you have a very sunny window in your home, you can grow this type of garden. Herbs and lettuces are the best plants for windowsill gardens.

Pros:

- Windowsill gardens are the simplest garden to grow.
- A sunny kitchen window is the best spot to grow herbs; they are easy to pinch off and use while cooking.
- Windowsill gardens take very little water.
- Windowsill gardens are easy to tend.



Cons:

- Not all plants do well in a windowsill.
- Small pots can dry out very quickly, so water needs to be added very regularly.
- Water overflow can be messy indoors, so be careful not to over water.





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In Ground Garden: This is the traditional way of planting a garden. Find an appropriate piece of ground and plant in it.

Pros:

- It can be simple and less expensive.
- If you have a good sunny spot of bare land that is protected from wildlife, this may be an option for you.
- This garden can usually grow more vegetables and a larger variety of vegetables.



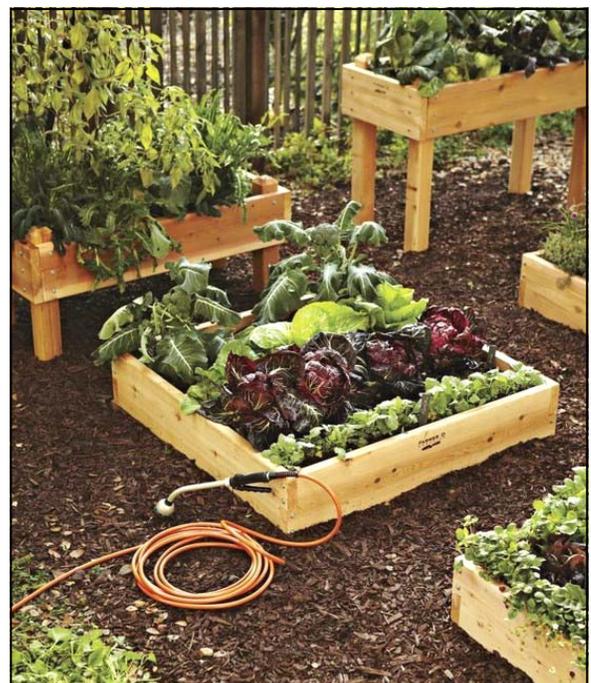
Cons:

- This type of garden can be a lot of work.
- The soil needs to be mixed with compost to add nutrients.
- It can be hard digging to get started.
- More weeds are likely to grow in this kind of garden, and some form of mulch may be needed.
- Since in ground gardens are often bigger, they also require more water.

Raised Bed Garden: A raised bed is a simple four sided “box” placed on the ground and filled with soil. They can be set anywhere on level ground and can be shallow or deep depending on what you want to grow. The “box” of the raised bed can be made from lumber, concrete blocks, or other specially made materials.

Pros:

- They can be inexpensive to make if you build them yourself, especially if you use recycled materials from your yard.
- Raised beds can fit where space is limited or soil is too hard to dig.
- Raised beds are easier to tend and weed because they are typically filled with fresh garden soil.



Cons:

- Pre-made raised bed kits can be very expensive.
- Extra soil is needed to fill garden beds.
- Garden beds still take up a bit of outdoor space and do not work on decks or concrete patios.

