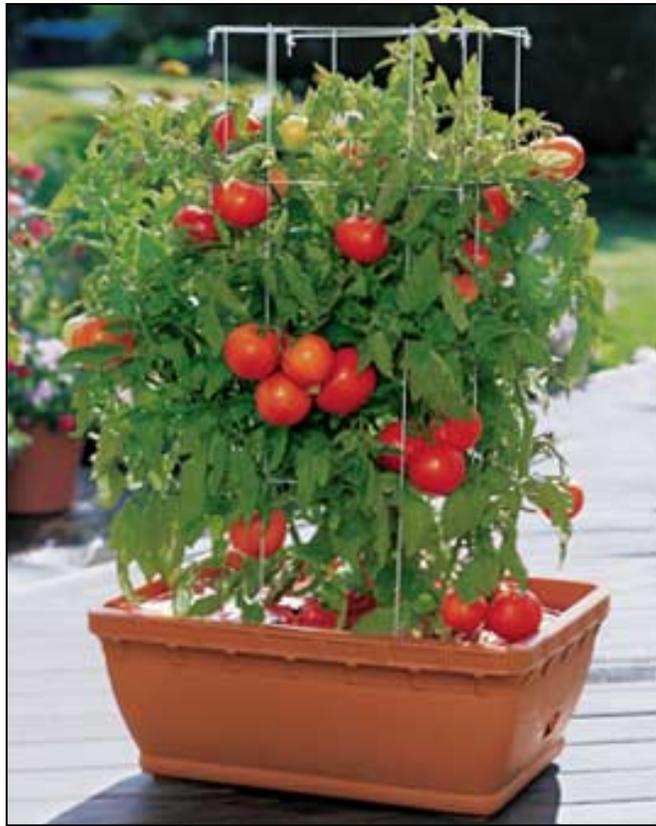


Late Spring & Summer Planting



Green Beans (May)

Tomatoes (May)

Peppers (May)

Cucumbers (May)

Basil (June)



Green Beans



Green beans are a warm weather crop and grow well in containers. Green beans come in bush and pole varieties. They are planted from seed and grow quickly. If you choose a pole variety, you will need to make or buy some sort of trellis for the bean plants to climb as they grow. Beans can be grown from seed or starts. Plant bean seeds in mid to late May. Beans prefer to grow when the daytime temperature reaches at least 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Bean Varieties:

Green bean varieties come in bush and pole types. Both bush and pole beans have dozens of varieties, from broad and meaty to thin and delicate. Pods can be round or flat, and come in multiple colors: green, purple, yellow, or mottled.

 **Bush bean varieties** - Provider, Tendercrop, Blue Lake, Golden Wax, Royal Purple Burgundy

 **Pole bean varieties** - Kentucky Wonder, Romano Italian, Kentucky Blue, Kentucky Wonder Wax



Growing Beans in a Container:

1. Choose a bean variety.
2. Green beans need at least an 8 inch container. For best results, use a 12 inch container or larger.
3. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures seeds have enough water when they are planted.
5. Plant your seeds or starts 4-6 inches apart. If you have a climbing variety, you will need to provide something for the bean plants to climb. Bamboo stakes and string can make a good trellis. Climbing beans can grow tall, so be sure the trellis has enough height.
6. Water your seeds or starts immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every day and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
7. Harvest beans when pods are mature. Mature pods will look different depending on the variety you choose. Your seed packet will give a photo of a mature pod for reference. Pods that are left on the vine too long will become tough and will lose flavor.



The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables.

Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".





Tomatoes



Tomatoes need full sun, rich soil, and plenty of water. Many varieties of tomatoes will grow well in a pot, but “patio” tomatoes are the best choice for containers. It is easiest to grow tomatoes using tomato plant starts. Tomatoes can get big and root deeply. It is best to grow a single tomato plant in a container that is 12 inches wide or wider and at least 12 inches deep. Tomato plants also need to be fertilized regularly. Read the package instructions to determine how much and how often to fertilize your tomatoes.

Tomato Varieties:

Patio Varieties:

- 🌱 **Larger tomatoes** - Patio Hybrid, Toy Boy, Roma, Ace Hybrid
- 🌱 **Cherry tomatoes** - Cherry Grande, Tiny Tim, Cherry Gold, Red Robin, Yellow Canary, Small Fry

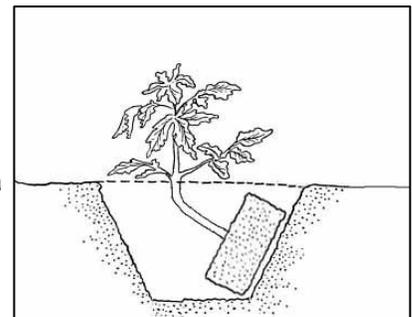
Non-Patio Varieties that do well in containers:

- 🌱 Celebrity, Mountain Delight, Husky



Growing Tomatoes in a Container:

1. Choose a tomato variety.
2. Choose a 12 inch container or larger container for each plant.
3. Make sure your container is in a spot that gets at least 6-8 hours of sun and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures seeds have enough water when they are planted.
5. Dig a hole in the center of the container. Plant your tomato start so that some of the stem is under the soil (see diagram below).
6. Water your starts immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every day and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger. It is important that tomatoes have consistent watering and that the soil never gets too dry. Also, be sure you are not over watering as tomatoes do not like soggy soil either.
7. If you choose a non-patio tomato, your plant may grow very tall. Tomato cages, bamboo stakes, or other wire cages work well to support your growing plant.
8. Fertilize tomato plants as needed. Harvest tomatoes when the fruit is mature. Fresh tomatoes are best NOT stored in the refrigerator.



🌱 *For more on tomatoes, see page 22.*





Tomatoes



Additional Information:

Tomatoes are warm season plants that do best in temperatures between 65 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Tomatoes respond well to soils enriched with compost or low nitrogen fertilizers.

Tomatoes prefer consistently moist soil that doesn't fluctuate from dry to wet. Watering them the same amount at the same time each day will help maintain soil moisture levels. Tomatoes may need a little extra water on very hot summer days.

While there are over 400 tomato varieties, there are only two tomato growth types, **Determinate** and **Indeterminate**.



Determinate tomatoes grow to a certain size, usually 3 to 5 feet. This makes them a good option for growing in containers. However, they also grow, flower and set their fruit all at once. Roma, Celebrity, and Ace are examples of determinate varieties. Determinate varieties will not give you garden fresh tomatoes all summer long.

Indeterminate tomatoes grow, flower, and set fruit continually throughout the growing season. Indeterminate tomatoes can also be grown in containers, but will need more tending. They tend to grow very large, so a larger container is needed. They also grow very tall. Stakes, cages, and trellises will be needed for indeterminate tomatoes. Early Girl, Fourth of July, and Sweet 100 are examples of indeterminate varieties.

When planning your container garden, be sure to read the seed packet or plant label to determine what type of tomato you have. It is important to know this before you plant your tomatoes, so you can plan accordingly.



*The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables.
Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".*



Peppers



Peppers come in many varieties that range from sweet to spicy hot, large to small, and from green to red. Peppers are easiest grown from plant starts. They grow well in containers and look lovely, too. Peppers prefer 6-8 hours of sun each day and require adequate water. If you choose to grow hot peppers, be careful children do not sample or handle them. Pepper plants need to be fertilized regularly. Read package instructions to determine how much and how often to fertilize your peppers.

Pepper Varieties:

Given the right conditions most varieties of peppers grow well in containers. Here are some common varieties:

-  **Sweet peppers** - Yolo Wonder, Keystone Resistant Giant, Canapé, Sweet Red Cherry, Fat'n'Sassy, Early Thickset
-  **Hot peppers** - Jalapeno, Hot Red Cherry, Anaheim, Serrano



Growing Peppers in a Container:

1. Choose a pepper variety.
2. Peppers need a container that is at least 12 inch wide and 12 inches tall. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
3. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures seeds have enough water when they are planted.
4. Dig a small hole in the potting soil and plant your start in the middle of the pot. If you are planting more than one pepper in a very large pot, space plants 12 inches apart.
5. Water starts immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every day and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
6. Fertilize pepper plants as needed. Harvest peppers when they are mature. Red and yellow pepper varieties can grow large rapidly, but can take longer to turn color. Be patient, as they change color they gain sweetness.



Tip:

Peppers can get sunburned in very hot conditions when the sun is beating down directly on the developing peppers. To help prevent, this move the container into a semi-filtered sun location on really hot summer days.





Cucumbers



Nothing says summer like a crisp refreshing cucumber. Salad cucumbers, pickling cucumber, and burpless cucumbers are just a few of the types to choose from. Cucumbers can be grown from seed or starts. Cucumber plants need to be fertilized regularly. Read package instructions to determine how much and how often to fertilize your cucumbers.

Cucumber Varieties:

Bush cucumber varieties tend to grow better than others in containers. They are more compact, robust plants, and adapt well to containers. They may require some staking to prevent them spilling over the pot and onto the ground where they are more susceptible to pests.

Bush Cucumber Varieties:

-  Bush Hybrid
-  Bush Champion
-  Salad Bush Hybrid
-  Spacemaster



Growing Cucumbers in a Container:

1. Choose a cucumber variety.
2. Choose a container. Cucumbers need a container at least 12 inches wide and 12 inches deep to grow.
3. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures seeds have enough water when they are planted.
5. Plant your seeds or starts 12 inches apart.
6. Water your seeds or starts immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every day and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
7. As cucumber plants get large, use small bamboo stakes and loosely tied string to secure them upright.
8. Fertilize cucumber plants as needed. Harvest cucumbers when they are mature. Watch your cucumber closely as they can mature and become big quickly.



The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables. Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".





Basil



Basil is a plentiful and versatile summer crop. Best planted from seed, basil grows in a container very easily. Basil comes in many different varieties and is always a fragrant summer addition to salad, sandwiches, soups, and sauces. Basil is fast growing and several crops can be planted throughout the summer.

Basil Varieties:

Basil is available in many different varieties each having their own unique flavor. Think about how you are going to use the basil you grow and it will help you choose. For example, if you want to make basil pesto, sweet basil or lettuce leaf basil is best. If you are simply adding basil to salad, any variety would work well. Since basil grows so well in relatively small containers, growing several varieties is a good option.

-  Sweet
-  Lettuce Leaf
-  Purple
-  Thai
-  Lemon



Growing Basil in a Container:

1. Choose a basil variety.
2. Choose a container that will grow the amount of basil you want. See table on page 7. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
3. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures seeds have enough water when they are planted.



4. Plant your seeds or starts per instructions on the seeds packet.
5. Water your seeds immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every day and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
6. You can begin to harvest basil when plants are 6 inches tall. Simply snip up from the second set of leaves from the bottom. The basil plant will continue to grow as you periodically snip new growth. Once Basil begins to flower, it will become bitter.

*The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables.
Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".*



