

CONTAINER GARDENING OVERVIEW



Container gardening is a great way to start gardening if you don't have a lot of space or want to try something new. Add instant colour and greenery to patios, balconies and gardens by planting-up containers. Hugely versatile, they can add drama to winter gardens and create impressive summer displays to suit your outdoor space. In this overview, we'll tell you all the basics you need to know about container gardening for beginners.

Choose the right location

It is essential to provide your plants with the appropriate amount of light and water after you have chosen them. To ensure that they receive at least six hours of sunlight per day, plants that require a lot of sunlight should be in a south- or west-facing location. Shade-loving plants should be grown in pots in areas with shade. If the weather is particularly hot or dry, your container garden should be watered more frequently than once per day.

Choose the right container

The first step in container gardening is selecting the right container. The container should be large enough to accommodate the plants you want to grow, but not so large that it becomes difficult to move or maintain. Consider the size, shape, and material of the container when making your selection. Opt for conventional plastic, terracotta or wooden pots and troughs, or be creative by recycling buckets, furniture or tins.

Choose the right compost

Next, select the appropriate container garden soil. Because the soil inside of a container can dry out quickly, container gardening requires a different kind of soil than traditional gardening. A good container soil should have a lot of organic matter, be lightweight, and drain well. You can get ready-made container soil from your neighbourhood garden centre or make your own by combining peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite in equal amounts. Plants in containers will require more frequent watering than plants in your borders because they do not have access to as much moisture as plants in the ground. On hot, sunny days, when the compost can dry out in a matter of hours, this is especially critical. In the summer, thoroughly water plants in the morning or evening to ensure that the water reaches the roots.

Have a plan of what plants you wish to buy

Try to make a list that includes the number of pots, their sizes, and where they will be going. This will allow you to find plants that will fit in the pots and let you know if you need plants for sun, shade, or anything in between.

There are a plethora of plant options available for your container garden. Herbs, flowers, and vegetables are some common choices. Start with a few easy-to-grow plants like tomatoes, peppers, or basil if you're new to container gardening. Before moving on to more difficult plants, you can learn the fundamentals of container gardening with these hardy plants.

Feed your plants

Last but not least, make sure to fertilise your container garden. Because they can only grow in a small amount of soil, container plants need a steady supply of nutrients to thrive. To keep your plants healthy and thriving, use a liquid fertiliser or a slow-release fertiliser.

Either fill your pot with potting soil and then add the fertiliser or make a large batch of potting soil and fertiliser in a bucket. The plants should then be fed a liquid fertiliser once or twice a week to maintain their health.

