

CONTAINER VEGETABLE GARDENING BY GAIL WISDOM

You don't need a plot of land to grow vegetables. You can grow almost anything in a container. All you need to get started is some containers, water, some potting soil and seeds or plants.

When choosing your containers, make sure that the capacity is approximately five gallons especially for larger plants like tomatoes and eggplant. You can use almost anything that you can find around the house such as ceramic or plastic pots, buckets, wooden boxes, laundry baskets, pails, wire baskets, washtubs and yes even your old cowboy boots. If the container doesn't already have drainage holes, make sure to add several on the bottom of each one with a drill. Drainage of excess water is very important so that you do not drown you plants. If your container is dark colored, you could paint it or wrap it in aluminum foil to prevent the roots from burning.

When looking for a place for the containers, make sure it will receive at least six hours of continuous sun. Make sure you are happy with your garden spot as it is pretty hard to move the pots once they are full.

Use potting soil to fill you containers and not soil from your yard. Chances are that you would transport weeds to your new garden. Add fertilizer at least every two - four weeks and don't forget to mulch with dried leaves or wood chips.

Choosing what vegetables to plant is the fun part. The choice of plants is only limited by your climate. Choices that will work well in our area are tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, green onions, leaf lettuce, radishes, peppers and squash.

Check your plants every day to see if they need water. Stick you finger in the soil about one inch to see if the soil is dry. It is best to keep it moist but not too wet.

Do your children turn their noses up at the sight of vegetables? Encourage them to get their hands dirty and help you plant your vegetable garden. You will be surprised when eating vegetables takes on a whole new meaning.