

## BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

### Tip of the Week

By Beverly Wickersham

#### “Tips for Container Gardeners, #2”

This is the second article of a two part series on container gardening. Last week we covered the selection of suitable pots used in container gardening.

The SOIL MIX, FERTILIZER, and WATERING are the next topics for discussion.

The soil mix for container gardening should be fairly lightweight and porous. A good brand of potting soil works well. Remember to fertilize your plants with a water-soluble fertilizer every two to three weeks. Check soil dryness daily and water as needed. Depending on the location of the plant, the pot's size and its material, every day watering may be required. A layer of pine bark mulch or cedar mulch on top of the planting mix will aid in water retention. Most of my plants are located on the north back porch and receive direct sunlight only in the afternoon. They are all in unglazed clay pots of various sizes. I usually water every other day. The early morning hours or late evening is the best time to water.

Here is a short list of the numerous plants well suited for container gardening in our area.

Perennial Herbs	Chives, Mint, Thyme, Fennel, Marjoram, Sage, Oregano
Annual Herbs	Dill, Basil, Summer Savoy
Biennial Herbs	Parsley
Annual Flowers	Geranium, Marigold, Nasturtium, Pansy, Petunia, Salvia, Verbena, Zinnia
Exotic Foliage	Caladium, Elephant Ears, Hibiscus, Lantana, White Bird of Paradise
Bulbs, Fall Planted	Crocus, Daffodil, Iris, Scylla, Tulip
Bulbs, Spring Planted	Begonia, Dahlia, Gladiolus, Oriental and Asiatic Lily
Vegetables	Carrots, Cucumbers, Leaf Lettuce, Green Onions, Tomatoes

Plant your container transplants, seeds, or bulbs at the same time you would plant them in a regular vegetable garden or flowerbed. Follow the directions on the package for planting depth and water gently after planting. If you plant seeds, you may need to thin once the seedlings emerge. Then sit back and enjoy!

Source: John W. Jett, Extension Specialist-Horticulture, West Virginia Extension Service

Have any questions about gardening in Central Texas? Contact [ask.bcmga@gmail.com](mailto:ask.bcmga@gmail.com)

