Container Gardening
Pretty & Productive

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Grow Flowers
Grow Vegetables & Herbs
Mix ‘em Up
And Many Others

- Trees
- Shrubs
- Fruits
  - Blueberries
  - Strawberries
  - Apples
In Better Soil
Wherever You Want Them
On Balconies, Patios & Beds
In Sunny Spots or Shade
Makes Gardening Easier
Easier to Reach
Easier On Your Back & Joints

Annuals
Perennials
Need Overwintering

Flowers

An arrangement
- Thriller
- Spillers
- Fillers

Showstopper
- All one color or variety

Fall Planter
Summer Planter

PLANT SELECTION
FRUITS & VEGETABLES

**Veggies & Herbs**

Need full sun
Select patio or bush varieties

**Smaller planters work for short season crops.**

Large planters for plants with roots that need room.

**Strawberries**

- Day neutral best:
  - produce for 1 year
  - 'Selva', 'Seascape', 'Tribute', 'Tristar'.

- Everbearing:
  - produce for 2 years with winter protection
  - 'Fort Laramie', 'Ogallala', 'Ozark Beauty'

**Year 1:** (Day-neutral and everbearing):
- remove runners all season;
- remove flowers for 6 – 8 weeks

**Year 2:** (Everbearing):
- continue to remove runners
- allow all flowers to produce

**Blueberries**

- Hardy, half-high varieties:
  - 2 varieties recommended but not required

**Fruit**

**Strawberries**

- Hard, semi-high varieties:
  - produce for 1 year
  - 'Selva', 'Seascape', 'Tribute', 'Tristar'.

- Everbearing:
  - produce for 2 years with winter protection
  - 'Fort Laramie', 'Ogallala', 'Ozark Beauty'

**Year 1:**
- remove runners all season;
- remove flowers for 6 – 8 weeks

**Year 2:**
- continue to remove runners
- allow all flowers to produce
Blueberries

- 5-gallon to half-whiskey barrel containers
- Loamy soil with extra peat (acidic) not coir
- Winter protection of roots required

Apples

Colonnade or spur-type

Trees & Shrubs

Need winter protection of the roots
Containers

Almost anything that holds "soil" and has drainage holes.

Container Choices

- Room for roots
- Holds moisture
  - Small ones dry out faster
- In scale with plants
- In scale with location

Types of Containers

- Terracotta, cocoa fiber and cloth
  - Porous dry out more quickly
Types of Containers

- Plastic and glazed
  - Hold moisture longer

- Stone & Concrete
  - Not porous
  - Heavy

- Wood
  - Retains moisture
  - Rots

- Others
  - Bamboo, resin, woven
  - Biodegradable

Grow Right in the Bag

- Container Drainage
  - Drain freely
  - Don’t need to cover holes
  - Don’t let sit in drainage water
  - Remove attached sauces
  - Use “pot feet” to prevent staining
Container Tips

Make porous pots more functional
- Place plastic pots inside
- Line with plastic (poke holes for drainage)

Container Tips

Make large, heavy pots more functional
- Fill bottom to take up space
  - Less soil used
  - Lighter weight
  - Weight with bricks if top heavy

NOT!

Container Tips

Make beautiful containers with no drainage more functional
- Put a "grow pot" inside that has holes
- Prop up so it doesn’t sit in drainage water

Soil Selections

Container mixes are usually "soilless"
Components of Mixes

- Peat
- Coir is coconut fiber
  - Sustainable substitute for peat

Sand — not advised but with lighter soils, can provide drainage
Remember, Sand + Clay = Cement

NOT!

Moisture retaining polymer granules
Components of Mixes

- Timed-release, coated fertilizers

NOT!

- Soil from the garden
  - Even if mixed with other components

Or

- Top soil alone

NOT!

- Bagged Planting Soil
- Bagged Garden Soil

Make Your Own

Equal parts of:
- Peat or Coir
  - (to hold moisture)
- Perlite or Vermiculite
  - (to provide pore space)
- Topsoil or Compost
  - (to hold nutrients)

About Used Soil

Best practice: use new soil every year
- Prevent carryover diseases
- Soluble salts build up
- 90% of organic matter dissipates in 1 year

Practically: new soil every couple years
- Unless there were diseased plants
  - i.e. tomatoes
- Or replace half of it every year

What to Do with Used Soil

- Add to compost pile
- Work into garden beds
- Top-dress lawn
**Water, Water, Water**

- Keep soil moist longer
  - Larger, non-porous containers
  - Shadier, less windy spots
  - Soil shaded by plants' foliage
  - Soil covered with mulch (shredded bark or chips)
  - Smaller, fewer, slower-growing plants
  - Polymers (only slightly longer)

**When to Water**

- Planter feels lighter in weight
- Soil feels dry at finger depth
- Plants begin to wilt
- Weather has been hot, dry and windy
- Experience

**Special Circumstances**

- When water runs right through
  - "Pot bound"
  - Soak in clear water

**Water Reservoir Pots**

- Platform for soil
- Space below platform for water
- Wick from water up to soil
- Tube with float to add water to reservoir
- Overflow hole on side of pot

**Drip Irrigation**

- Watering a Pot using a Double Stream Emitter
  - Adjustable Stream Emitter
  - 1/2" Drip Tubing (Black)
  - 1/2" Drip Tubing (White)
Fertilize Frequently

Frequent watering washes away nutrients.

Fertilizing

Nutrients

3 numbers on container N-P-K are percentages

- % Nitrogen (N)
- % Phosphorous (P)
- % Potassium (K)

Plus other minor and trace nutrients

Types

Liquid and soluble
- Mixed with water for watering
- Easiest
- Most expensive

Types

Granular
- Slowly available
- Cheapest

Coated Fertilizer
- Timed release

Spikes
- Gradually dissolve
- Expensive
### How Much

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<tr>
<th>Combine</th>
<th>OR Just use soluble every other time you water</th>
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| ▪ timed-release fertilizer in the soil  
▪ plus soluble once a month | |

### Overwintering

#### Winter Care of Containers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bring indoors</th>
<th>Leave outside</th>
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| ▪ Terra cotta, plastic, resin, small concrete | ▪ Large wooden planters  
  - Filled with soil |

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<tr>
<th>Winter Care of Containers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Large concrete or stone</td>
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#### Overwintering Perennial Plants

- Perennial flowers
- Perennial herbs
- Blueberries, strawberries & apples
- Trees & shrubs

**It's the roots that aren't winter hardy — not the plants.**

- Insulate the roots.
- The plants don’t need protection.

#### Healing In

- Sink pots into vacant ground beds up to their rims
- Mound with mulch  
  - Straw  
  - Leaves  
  - Evergreen boughs
In an Attached Garage

In a box or tub stuffed with insulating material
- Mulch, rags, insulation, packing peanuts, straw

Outside Year ‘Round

Before planting, line inside with insulation (foam or sheet)

OR, once soil has frozen, surround pots and exposed soil with thick layer of straw or leaves

Containers

Pretty & Productive
Convenient & Creative
Better Soil
Move into Sun or Shade
Easy to Reach
Change with the Seasons

Thank You

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