



Planting

- ❑ Plant container crops at the same time you would if you were planting a regular garden.
- ❑ Fill a clean container to within one-half inch of the top with the slightly damp soil mixture.
- ❑ Peat moss in the mix will absorb water and mix much more readily if soaked in water before putting the mix in the container.
- ❑ Sow the seeds or set transplants according to instructions on the seed package.

Planting

- ❑ Put a label with the name, variety and date of planting on or in each container.
- ❑ After planting, gently soak the soil with water, being careful not to wash out or displace seeds.
- ❑ Thin seedlings to obtain proper spacing when the plants have two or three leaves.
- ❑ If cages, stakes, or other supports are needed, provide them when the plants are very small to avoid later root damage.

Watering

- ❑ Pay particular attention to watering container plants.
- ❑ Because the volume of soil is relatively small, containers can dry out very quickly, especially on a concrete patio in full sun.
- ❑ Daily or even twice-daily watering may be necessary.
- ❑ Apply water until it runs out the drainage holes, making provisions for water drainage.
- ❑ However, the soil should never be soggy or have water standing on top of it.

Watering

- ❑ Clay pots and other porous containers allow additional evaporation from the sides of the pots and watering must be done more often.
- ❑ Small pots also tend to dry out more quickly than larger ones.
- ❑ If the soil appears to be getting excessively dry (plants wilting every day is one sign), group the containers together so that the foliage creates a canopy to help shade the soil and keep it cool.

Watering

- ❑ On a hot patio, you might consider putting containers on pallets or other structures that will allow air movement beneath the pots
- ❑ Prevent direct contact with the cement
- ❑ Check containers at least once a day and twice on hot, dry or windy days

Watering

- ❑ Feel the soil to determine whether or not it is damp.
- ❑ Mulching and windbreaks can help reduce water requirements for containers.
- ❑ If you are away a lot, consider an automatic drip emitter irrigation system.

Fertilizing

- ❑ Do not add more than the recommended rate of any fertilizer, since this may cause fertilizer burn and kill the plants.
- ❑ Container plants do not have the buffer of large volumes of soil and humus to protect them from over fertilizing or over-liming.
- ❑ Just because a little is good for the plant does not guarantee that a lot will be better.

General Care of the Plants

- ❑ The various types of insects and diseases that are common to any vegetable garden can attack vegetables grown in containers.
- ❑ Plants should be periodically inspected for the presence of foliage-feeding and fruit-feeding insects as well as the occurrence of diseases.
- ❑ Protect plants from very high heat caused by light reflection from pavement.
- ❑ Move plants to a sheltered location during severe rain, hail or windstorms, and for protection from fall frosts.

Container Gardening in OK

A WHOLE 'NOTHER STORY!