

family  
**Vegetable  
Garden**  
Series

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-824 (12)

# Space Saving Ideas

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**NO EXCUSES, PLEASE!**

Just because you don't have lots of space is no reason not to have a garden. Many great gardens are grown in small spaces.

Use containers on a balcony, or combine vegetables with flowers. Vegetables look good, so enjoy them wherever you can find room.

## FOR LIMITED SPACE

**WHAT TO GROW —**

*These vegetables produce a lot in a small space:*



TOMATOES



LETTUCE



TURNIPS



GREENS



RADISHES



BEANS

(POLE  
or  
SNAP)



ONIONS

BUSH  
SQUASH



**AND WHAT NOT TO GROW —**

Some vegetables need a very large space to produce much, such as peas, melons, potatoes, corn, vine squash. (Vine crops like melons and squash can be grown in a small place if they are trained on a trellis or pole.)

## TRY FOR TWICE

**SUCCESSIVE CROPPING** means growing two or more crops in the same space **ONE AFTER ANOTHER**. For example, after an early crop of lettuce is harvested, a late maturing crop like beets can be planted in its place.



### ANYTHING WILL DO

The best containers may be lying around the home or garage. Dented pails, tubs, barrels and plastic wastebaskets are fine for container gardening.



### SIZE IS IMPORTANT

The right container size depends on the size of the vegetable. Six-inch pots are fine for small plants like chives. A tomato plant needs at least a five gallon container or the soil will dry out too fast.

### DON'T FORGET DRAINAGE

All containers should have a few 1/4 inch drainage holes drilled along the side near the bottom.



**COMPANION CROPPING** means growing two kinds of plants in the same space **AT THE SAME TIME**. Use a short-season and a long-season crop, like radishes and carrots. Radishes grow quickly, and are harvested before they compete with the carrots. Dig radishes carefully to avoid hurting the carrots. Or plant lettuce between late-maturing crops like cabbage or broccoli.



## OR TRY CONTAINER GARDENING

An easy way to garden in little space — just plant your favorite vegetables in containers!

## LET THEM CLIMB

Vine plants take less space grown in a cage or on a pole or fence than when grown on the ground. Pole beans, tomatoes and vine crops like cucumbers and squash can be trained like this.



## INSIDE AND OUT

With container gardening, plants can be started earlier for an early harvest. Most containers can be moved outside in the spring on warm days and brought indoors at night or when the weather is bad. This can be done in fall, too, so plants aren't killed by early frost.



## START WITH SOIL

It should be light and sterile. Buy a soil mix containing fertilizer at a nursery or garden center.

OR

save money and mix your own.



For two bushels of soil, combine:

- 1 bu. peat moss
- 1 bu. vermiculite
- 1 1/4 cups ground limestone
- 1/2 cup 20% superphosphate
- 1 cup 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 fertilizer
- 1/2 tsp chelated iron.
- a pinch of borax

(all available at nursery or garden center.)

## VEGETABLES FOR CONTAINERS:



EGGPLANT

eggplant  
lettuce  
onions  
most herbs

peppers  
Swiss chard  
tomatoes

## TAKE THEM ANYWHERE

Put plants where they can be seen and enjoyed. They need lots of sun. Containers can be moved easily on a wagon.



## TO KEEP THEM GROWING — FOOD —

Plants in containers need to be fertilized often. Use a concentrated fertilizer that you mix with water, following directions on label OR apply 1 level tsp. of 5-10-5 dry fertilizer per square foot of soil every three weeks, starting three weeks after transplanting. Mix the dry fertilizer into the top 1/2 inch of soil and water well.

### -AND WATER

Water plants when the top 1/2 inch of soil dries out. Apply enough so that some drains out the bottom.

- Do not overwater, especially if metal or plastic containers are used.
- Don't wet the leaves — this may cause disease.
- On very hot days, you may have to water mature plants more than once.



KEYS  
TO  
SUCCESS

- Choose vegetables carefully
- Have a plan
- Don't overlook possible space

Other bulletins in this series provide additional information on vegetable gardening.

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