

Container Food Garden Planner

A practical worksheet for growing vegetables and herbs in pots and grow bags

Start with the food you will use

Choose one or more crops your household buys or cooks regularly. Then match each crop to a container, a suitable growing mixture and the correct local planting season.

Gardener	
Location	
USDA zone (optional)	
Local Extension guide	
Season or start date	

My first harvest

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Tomatoes | ☐ Peppers |
| ☐ Eggplant | ☐ Beans |
| ☐ Cucumbers | ☐ Leafy greens |
| ☐ Carrots or beets | ☐ Potatoes |
| ☐ Sweet potatoes | ☐ Culinary herbs |
| ☐ Other: _____ | ☐ Other: _____ |

Use a guide for your area.

Planting dates are local. Begin with your state or county Cooperative Extension guide. Toni gardens in South Florida and uses the UF/IFAS Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide: edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/VH021

Thoughtful living, from garden to table.

1. Match Each Crop to a Container

Record the mature variety, not just the seedling size. A larger container generally provides more root room and a steadier moisture reserve.

Crop and variety	Qty.	Container size	Width/depth	Support needed?

Practical starting points

Crop	Starting container	Crop	Starting container
Pepper	5 gal+	Compact tomato	5 gal+
Full-size tomato	10-20 gal	Eggplant	5 gal+
Cucumber	5 gal+ + trellis	Potatoes	10-15 gal+
Sweet potatoes	15-20 gal+	Short carrots	10-12 in. deep
Long carrots	14-18 in. deep	Leafy greens	6-8 in. deep
Culinary herb	1-3 gal	Compact melon	15-20 gal+ + support

2. Plan the Growing Area

Arrange empty containers before filling them. Consider mature plant size, sun, wind, drainage, watering access and the combined weight of damp growing mixture and plants.

Growing area	
Direct sun hours	
Water source	
Drainage destination	
Wind or heat concerns	

Placement sketch

Mark north, doors, railings, walls, water sources, paths and trellises. Place taller crops where they will not unnecessarily shade shorter ones.

Before filling the containers

- ☐ Stable, level surface
 ☐ Enough room to harvest
 ☐ Water reaches every pot
 ☐ Walkways remain clear
- ☐ Unobstructed drainage
 ☐ Supports installed early
 ☐ Balcony load checked if applicable
 ☐ Pets and wildlife considered

3. Planting and Succession Schedule

Use your local guide to choose dates. Record what you actually do so your own notes become more useful each season.

Crop	Start indoors	Direct sow	Transplant	Days to maturity	Expected harvest

Succession notes

Crop to repeat	
Next sowing date	
Space that will reopen	
Replacement crop	

4. Watering, Feeding and Care

Check the growing mixture rather than watering only by the calendar. Fabric bags and small containers can dry quickly in hot or windy weather.

Date	Container/crop	Moisture	Water or feed	Pests / support / notes

Weekly garden walk

- ☐ Check moisture
 ☐ Check supports
 ☐ Harvest ripe produce
 ☐ Note open spaces
- ☐ Inspect leaf undersides
 ☐ Look for clogged emitters
 ☐ Remove unhealthy debris
 ☐ Photograph progress

Adjustments for next week

Watering	
Nutrition	
Pest response	
Support or placement	

5. Harvest, Results and Reuse

Record useful harvests as well as problems. At the end of the season, clean and dry reusable grow bags before folding them for storage.

Date	Crop	Amount	Used, shared or preserved	Notes

End-of-season review

Most useful crop	
Best-performing container	
What struggled	
What I will grow again	
What I will change	

Grow-bag storage checklist

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Remove roots and debris | ☐ Separate diseased material |
| ☐ Empty growing mixture appropriately | ☐ Clean as manufacturer directs |
| ☐ Dry completely | ☐ Inspect fabric, seams and handles |
| ☐ Fold and store in a dry place | ☐ Retire bags that are no longer sound |

Notes for next season

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