

# Container Gardening Workshop

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Why grow in containers? Containers are a great way to bring a garden to you wherever you might be. They are simple and easy to set up, and don't require any ground space. Plants can be grown indoors in a sunny dorm room, office, bedroom, patio or even on a fire escape. They are simple and easy to set up, let's get started on our very own productive mini-garden!

First, our materials:

## **Container**

A container roughly 4-6 inches deep depending on what you are growing. Especially nice to have one with drainage holes in the bottom for the best water management. Larger containers can be used if you want to plant more than plant in the same container.

**Where to buy?** These containers can be found at plant nurseries or your local hardware store.

Oftentimes these are being recycled or tossed and you can ask the store for one!



## **Transplant**

Choose plants that give you a continuous harvest rather than a single harvest. I recommend growing a plant that is in season when you are beginning your garden, your chances of having a

successful harvest are much higher. Check this link for a great resource in finding what to grow in Santa Clara County:

<http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/garden-help/vegetables/vegetable-planting-chart/>.

**Where to buy?** Hardware stores and local nurseries are the go-to options for you. Before you go to the hardware store, be cautious as many of the transplants at those locations contain neonicotinoid pesticides, which are toxic to bees. Look out for our twice a year plant sale at the Forge Garden for ready to go plants that you can bring home!

### **Soil**

Pick a good potting mix rich with organic matter that holds moisture well. Soils should be light and airy to assure the soil does not become compacted. An easy potting soil can be made using coco peat, vermiculite and sifted compost. I recommend purchasing pre made potting mix for the easy and simple setup.

**Where to buy?** Soils can be found at the same location you get your transplants, hardware stores and local nurseries.

**Once you have gathered your materials, we can plant our container garden:**



### **First:**

1. We will add our transplant, first digging a hole the size of the root ball of our plant.
2. Place the plant in whole and fill in with soil. Fill all the way to the top of the container.
3. Depending on your container size, ensure you have proper spacing. Many plants will likely fit one to a 4-6" container.

### **Next:**

1. Water our soil and plant, check holes in the underside to see if water is draining to ensure a healthy first watering.
2. Monitor plant status, watering when needed

### **Optional:**

Trowel and Watering Can are great to have, but not necessary!