



Bellaire Place

Summer 2004

Container Gardening: for your summer FRUITS and VEGETABLES

Just because you live in an apartment or condominium does not mean you can't enjoy a fresh summer salad picked by you in your container garden.

First review your deck and see where the sunny areas are and the shade areas and how long the sun stays. Based on that information you will be able to strategically set your pots and plants for the best results. All your leafy vegetables should be in the partly shady area.

In our last issue we talked a lot about the different types of containers available and much depends on personal taste. For planting vegetables, size is most important. We recommend containers that are 12-16 inches in diameter and at least 12 inches deep. Always remember to make sure your containers have proper drainage, more than one hole; if necessary drill several more holes in the bottom of your container to add proper drainage. One of the worst things for your garden is standing water.

Soil. You will have to buy soil for your garden. We recommend Miracle grow garden mix. Other options are a mix of potting soil and compost. If you planted in these containers last year empty out some soil and add fresh new healthy soil.

Decide what you like to eat and plant what is most appealing to you. Since space is limited, make a list of your favorites and know how many pots you have available before you go shopping.

Now it is time to plant:

You can use seeds, no it is not too late, especially for lettuce's. Baby Spinach is a great harvest that will keep growing all summer. The more you pick the more it grows.

Nurseries and garden centers in Home Depot and Lowes offer great ready to plant vegetables that have a healthy start. Make sure you read the tag to see how they will fit in your garden.

The most popular plant in your container garden is always the tomato. We recommend the following varieties:

- *Early Girl* • *Patio*
- *Tumbler* • *Cherry*

Remember to stake your plants before as you plant. You don't want to drive the stake through the main roots. As your garden grows keep tying them back so they don't fall on each other, and get the most amount of sunlight on the vegetables.

Look for more info in the Fall >>

Don't Forget:

Water and fertilize regularly. Remember, many decks and patios have overhangs and don't get natural water from the rain, so your garden will most likely be dependent on you for water. Make sure your pots all have a water catch to avoid having water drip down to your neighbor.

We recommend the following fertilizers:

- *Miracle grow garden*
- *Liquid fish (be careful it has a strong odor)*

For more information:

Container gardening Spring and summer 2004

Fine Gardening Magazine
• www.finegardening.com

Novelty planters
• www.noveltymfg.com

Plant Suppliers:

Both suppliers guarantee the plants they sell, just keep the receipt and you can return your plant even if it is a brown wilting mess. That is a great benefit for the novice gardener.

- *Home Depot*
- *Lowes*