

CONTAINER EDIBLES: LINKS AND RESOURCES

(links from NC State Extension unless otherwise noted)

Container Garden Planting Calendar for Edibles in the NC Piedmont (AG-748)

https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/static/publication/js/pdf_js/web/viewer.html?slug=container-garden-planting-calendar-for-edibles-in-the-piedmont

How to Create a Container Garden for Edibles in the NC Piedmont (AG-753)

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-create-a-container-garden-for-edibles-in-the-north-carolina-piedmont>

NC Extension Gardener Handbook – chapter 18, Plants Grown in Containers

https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/18-plants-grown-in-containers#section_heading_8772

Growing Vegetables in Containers (University of Maryland Extension)

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/growing-vegetables-containers>

Vegetable Gardening: A Beginner's Guide (AG-12)

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/home-vegetable-gardening-a-quick-reference-guide>

First and Last Frost Dates in NC – interactive map and chart

<https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/09/first-and-last-frost-dates/?src=rss>

Dwarf Tomatoes - information and links (PennState Extension)

<https://extension.psu.edu/dwarf-tomatoes-save-space-and-taste-great>

Harvesting Vegetables (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/harvesting-vegetables>

How to Grow Potatoes in a Trash Can (blog post, City Roots farm)

<https://cityrootsfarm.com/blogs/farm-blog/how-to-grow-potatoes-in-a-trash-can>

Container Edibles - videos and how-tos

Tips for Starting a Container Garden – video, NC State Extension Homegrown

<https://homegrown.extension.ncsu.edu/2019/02/tips-for-starting-a-container-garden>

Container Gardening, an easy way to grow your own food – video, University of Maryland Extension

<https://youtu.be/OIKXcxzK93M>

Wood Pallet and Straw Bale Gardening – video, Buncombe county Master Gardener volunteers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpXBfIRCG94>

Build a Salad Table: plans and materials – University of Maryland Extension

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/building-salad-tabletm>

Build a Salad Box (table top garden): plans and materials – University of Maryland Extension

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/building-salad-boxtm>

Some best practices for growing food plants in containers:

- Give your container gardens the advantage of the best sunlight you have available.
- Containers can be new or repurposed – be creative! But all containers must have drainage holes.
- Use a pot big enough for the size of the mature plant's root system. Remember plants need room to grow.
- Use a potting mix in containers, not soil from your yard or garden; there are many choices on the market.
- Check the Planting Calendar or seed package for the best information on when to plant each crop.
- When direct seeding, plan for thinning to the correct spacing for the mature size of that vegetable.
- When choosing transplants, look for healthy plants that are not spindly, overgrown, or rootbound.
- Container plantings need regular tending. Pay particular attention to the watering needs of each container. Plants will need more water in summer heat or drought, and when they are mature and producing fruit. Water thoroughly each time. Remember larger and non-porous containers help to hold moisture longer.

Not all plants make sense in the smaller space of a container. Some that give the best return:

Cool season – beets, broccoli, carrots, greens, kale, lettuce, onions, turnips (both greens and roots)

Warm season – beans, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, squash (both summer and winter), zucchini

Container Vegetables – Guide to Pot Sizes

Pot Size	Soil Volume Held
4 inches	½ quart/ 2 cups
6 inches	1 ½ quart/ 6 cups
8 inches	6 quarts/ 1.5 gallons
10 inches	10 quarts/ 2.5 gallons
12 inches	14 quarts/ 3.5 gallons
14 inches	18 quarts/ 4.5 gallons
16 inches	22 quarts/ 5.5 gallons
20 inches	28 quarts/ 7 gallons
24 inches	36 quarts/ 9 gallons
30 inches	72 quarts/ 18 gallons
36 inches	96 quarts/ 24 gallons

LIST COMPILED AND DISTRIBUTED BY NC STATE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERSM VOLUNTEERS, GUILFORD COUNTY
In Guilford County, contact us with questions: email guilfordmg@gmail.com, or leave a message at 336-641-2404

Crops	Pot size in volume	Plants per pot	Spacing
Bean, Snap (Bush)	5-10 gal.	1-3	6"
Beet ('Detroit Dark Red', 'Early Wonder', Red Ace Hybrid')	5 gal.	12	5"
Broccoli ('DeRapa', 'Green Comet F1 Hybrid')	5 gal.	2	14"
Bunching onions ('EG Bunching')	5 gal.	8-10	3"
Cabbage ('Badger Market', 'Copenhagen Market', 'Golden Acre')	10 gal.	3	14"
Carrot ('Oxheart', 'Short 'n Sweet', 'Nantes', 'Orbit')	5-10 gal	10-20	2"
Celery ('Giant Pascal', 'Ventura')	10 gal.	5	10"
Chard, Swiss ('Fordhook Giant', 'Rhubarb', 'Ruby')	5-10 gal.	2-4	6"
Cucumber ('Burpee Hybrid II', 'Bush Champion')	5-10 gal.	1-2	10"
Eggplant ('Jersey King', 'Dusky Hybrid', 'Asian Bride')	10 gal.	3-4	18"
Lettuce ('Baby Bibb', 'Red Sails')	5-10 gal.	4-8	8"
Okra ('Blondy', 'Burgundy')	5 gal.	1	18"
Pea (BUSH: 'Burpee Dwarf Blue Bantam', 'Dwarf Grey Sugar')	10-14	10	3"
Pepper Bell ('Bell Boy', 'Purple Beauty')	3-5 gal.	1	18"
Potato ('Charlotte', 'Irish Cobbler', 'Kennebec')	15-20 gal.	8-10	7"
Radish ('Cherry Belle')	2-10 gal.	16-36	½"
Spinach ('America', 'Bloomsdale', 'Longstanding')	10 gal.	6-8	6"
Squash ('Burpee Fordhook Zucchini', 'Sunburst Hybrid')	10 gal.	2	12"
Tomato ('Early Girl', 'Red Cherry', 'Patio', 'Husky Red', 'Tiny Tim')	5-20 gal.	1	24"