

CONTAINER EDIBLES: LINKS AND RESOURCES

(links from NC State Extension unless otherwise noted)

Container Garden Planting Calendar for Edibles in the NC Piedmont

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

Container Vegetable Gardening (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/container-vegetable-gardening/>

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

<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>

Best Way to Grow Potatoes in Containers (University of New Hampshire)

<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2020/03/what-best-way-grow-potatoes-containers>

Container Edibles - videos and how-tos

Tips for Starting a Container Garden – 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 – University of Maryland Extension

<https://youtu.be/OIKXcxzK93M>

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>

Wood Pallet Gardening – NC State Extension Master GardenerSM volunteers, Buncombe County

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

Using Wooden Pallets Safely – Penn State Extension

<https://extension.psu.edu/be-safe-around-wooden-pallets>

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

NC STATE EXTENSION
Master Gardener | Guilford County

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

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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 ('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"

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