

~ Herb Gardening ~

Tiffany Sustar - Buchwalter Greenhouse

Where to Start?

- Sunshine
- Containers, raised bed or in the ground
- Good soil that drains well
- Some watering
- Fertilizer or compost



Location

- Most prefer full sun
- Minimum 4 hours of sunlight
- Morning sun vs. Afternoon sun
- They can grow with less sunshine, but they will not grow as well

Herb Gardening in Containers

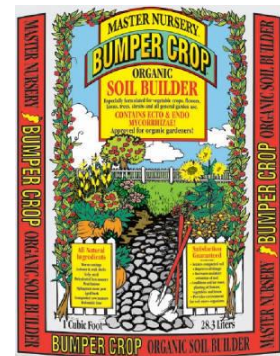
- Sunny decks, patios, and other such areas are great for container gardening
- Saves the difficulty of digging that starting a garden plot requires
- Diligent watering and regular feeding – *Earthboxes are a great solution!*
- Some plants grow quite large and do much better in the ground

Spacing

- Approximately 1 to 4 feet in diameter for each plant
- General guidelines for plant sizes:
 - 3-4 ft. - Sage, Mints, Oregano, Marjoram
 - 2 ft. - Basils, Rosemary, Thyme, Tarragon, Savory
 - 1 ft. - Cilantro, Chives, Dill, Parsley

Soil

- For Planting in the Ground
 - o Loosen soil that has become compacted
 - o Add compost to your soil, about an inch or so on top and then mixing it into the soil
 - o Allows water to drain and creates space for plant roots to reach down into the soil.
 - o *Bumper Crop is a favorite!*
- For Containers
 - o Start with fresh potting soil every season
 - o *Pro-Mix potting soil is great!*
 - o Moisten the potting soil by mixing in water until the soil feels damp all the way through



Fertilizing

- Dr. Earth is organic and WORKS!
- Liquid vs. granule fertilizer
- How often?
- Healthy plants can better fight disease and insects!



Planting

- Prepare your container or ground with soil/compost
- Add fertilizer according to the directions on the package for herbs or for most vegetables
- Dig holes large enough for each plant.
- Release the plants from their starter containers by turning them upside down, tapping the bottom, and gently pulling on the base of the stems until the plant comes out of the container.
- Place the plant in the hole and gently press soil around the edges to fill.
- Water the plant immediately after planting

Water

- Water them when they become dry.
- As soon as the soil located a couple of inches below the surface is dry to the touch.
- Since temperatures and humidity cause drying times to vary every week, you must check the soil often
- Do not over-water. More water is not better and can lead to diseases or just poor growing conditions

Harvesting

- Cut off about 1/3 of the branches when the plant reaches at least 6-8" tall.
- Cut close to a leaf intersection so your plants will re-grow very quickly.
- Some plants, such as parsley, grow new leaves from their center. In this case the oldest branches need to be completely removed, leaving the new tiny branches growing from the center.