

Veggie Container Gardening

Tiffany Sustar – Buchwalter Greenhouse

- I. **What do you want to grow?**
 - a. What veggies do you *eat* the most?
 - b. What veggies will be more *economical* to grow?
 - c. What veggies will *taste* better fresh?

- II. **Where to grow it?**
 - a. Sunny location – southern exposure is preferred. Goal is 8 hours+ of sunlight.
 - b. Easy to access – deck/railing/porch/driveway (Where will you see it regularly?)
 - c. Containers (window boxes, patio pots, hanging baskets, EarthBOX, etc.)
 - i. Advantages: Easily moved, Water control
 - d. Raised Beds (Square Foot Garden)
 - i. Advantages: Easier to harvest/weed than traditional gardens, more space than containers
 - ii. Make from cedar or cement blocks (NEVER treated wood or railroad tiles!)
 - iii. Typically 4ft. x 4ft. but can be made into any shape or size
 - e. Traditional Garden
 - i. Needed for corn and spreading plants like pumpkins, melons, squash, etc.

- III. **Preparing the soil**
 - a. Containers – ProMix Potting Soil or Gardener’s Gold Potting Soil
 - b. Raised Beds – Bumper Crop & topsoil and/or potting soil
 - c. Traditional Garden – Work in Bumper crop

- IV. **Container Planting Veggies**
 - a. Herbs – 1-3 gallon pot per plant (8-12”) or Earthbox Junior
 - b. Tomatoes – 3-5 gallon pot per plant (12-16”) *May need a trellis or cage
 - c. Peppers, Eggplant, Beets, Carrots, Onions – 2-3 gallon pot per plant (10-12”)
 - d. Lettuce, Spinach, Radish, Herbs – Window box, bowls, or 10-12” pot
 - e. Cucumbers, Peas – 3-5 gallon pot per plant (12-16”) *Can be trellised
 - f. Potatoes – 7 gallon+ pot per 3 spuds (20”+)
 - g. Could grow cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, but harvest is limited
 - h. EarthBox demo

V. **Caring for Container Veggies**

a. Water

- i. Consistently moist soil, but not soggy
- ii. Do not allow to completely dry out
- iii. Amount of water will increase and be needed more often as they grow
- iv. Container veggies need more water than a traditional garden because of limited space

b. Fertilizer

- i. Healthy Plants = Healthy Harvest
- ii. Increased watering for containers means more nutrient loss
- iii. Feed Bumper Crop Tomato & Veggie Food *Includes calcium
- iv. Supplement with liquid fertilizer

c. Insect/Disease Control

- i. Check for insects/disease when watering (Look for holes, discolored leaves, eggs...)
- ii. Only apply when necessary, either early morning or at late evening/night
- iii. Captain Jacks/Eight for insects. Fungonil for disease.

VI. **What to Plant Now?**

- a. Late March – Asparagus, Collards, Onion Sets, Peas, Radish, Spinach, Turnips
- b. April – Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Carrots, Lettuce, Potatoes
- c. May – Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant (Night temps of 50° and Soil temps of 75°)
- d. Ohio Gardening Calendar <https://u.osu.edu/ohiovictorygardens/>

VII. **Resources**

- a. Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheets (Search “Ohio State” and the veggie/fruit you want to learn about)

VIII. **Raised Beds Info**

- a. Square Foot Gardening - <https://www.quickcrop.ie/square-foot-gardening>
- b. Intro to Square Foot Gardening <https://youtu.be/yeVF8J75xUg>
- c. Plan your spacing <http://plantandplate.com/p-downloads/PlantandPlate-SFG-spacing.pdf>