

# Small Space Gardening



# Gardening in containers

- Containers are perfect for patios, stoops, and balconies.
- When choosing plants for a container, the most important things to consider are the light and temperature conditions of your space.
- A south-facing porch with no cover will need very different plants than an east-facing, covered balcony.
- For example Lettuce can thrive with less sun ( 6 hours ),and like it cooler. Tomatoes and Peppers love heat and sun ( 8 plus hours)
- Size also matters. ( see size chart)

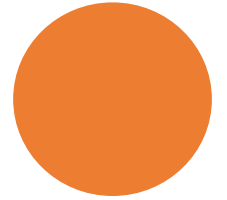


No Limits Use What You Have

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# Starting On Your Container

- Start with a clean container. In a perfect world we would empty and clean containers every season.
- Clean pots with a stiff brush, and a 10% bleach water mix with a bit of dish soap. You can substitute vinegar for bleach. Scrub and rinse well. Let dry preferably in the sun.



# Filling The Container

- The best choice is a good quality potting mix. The mix will be sterile and get you off to a disease free start. This can be costly in large pots, so there are some options.
- 10 Quarts of Coconut Coir ( helps hold water )
- 5 Quarts of Perlite ( helps with aeration )
- 5 Quarts of vermiculite (helps with aeration)
- 5 Quarts of screened compost ( holds water and fertilizes plants)
- 2 cups of fine sand
- 2 Cups of pelleted slow release fertilizer



# Feeding and Watering



- Pots tend to dry out quickly. Depending on your environment you may need to water daily.
- Make sure your pots have drain holes unless they are designed not to. Such a Earthbox which is considered a self watering pot
- You may need to feed your containers every 2 to 4 weeks
- Read instructions. Do not over fertilize



# Raised Beds

Raised beds can be all shapes and sizes Be Creative



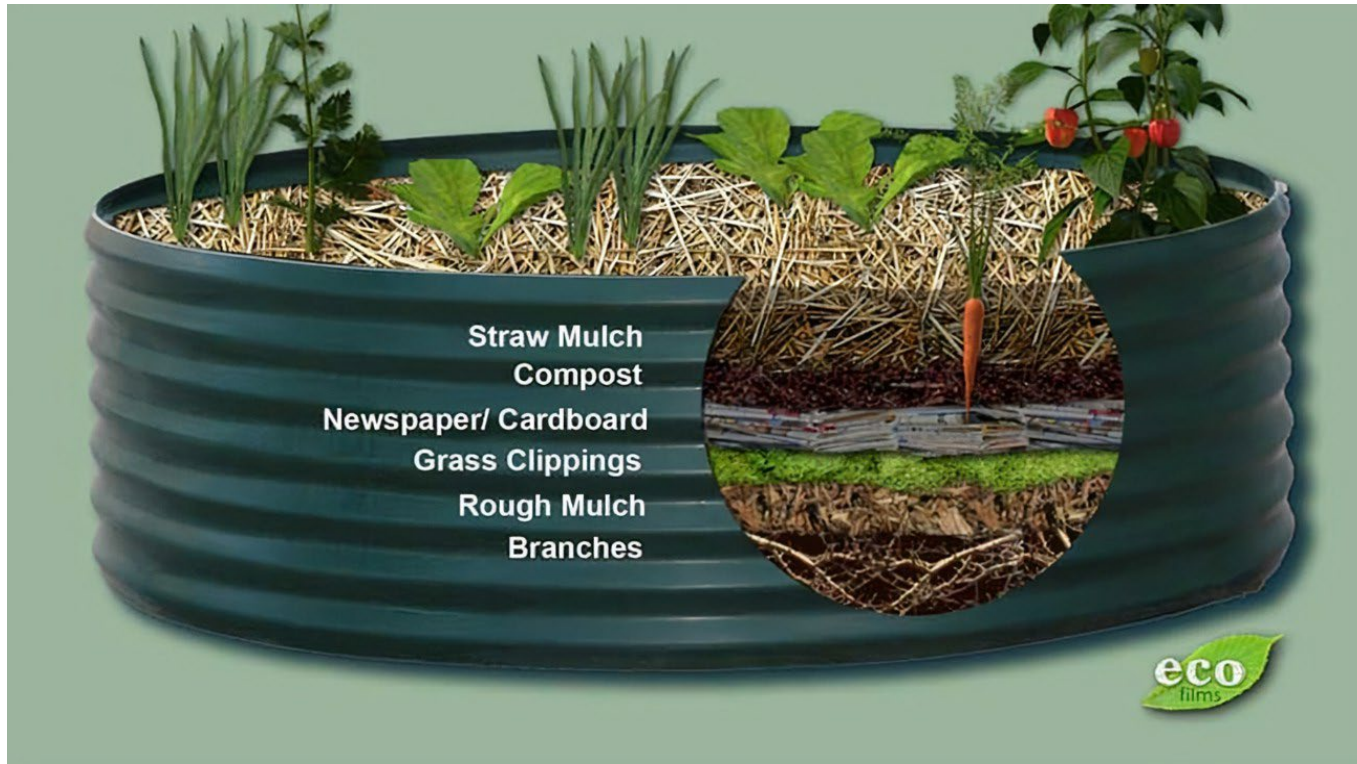


## Filling Your Bed

- Put a layer of cardboard under your raised bed. It will help smother any weeds that try to shoot through.
- You can also depending on the depth of your bed add logs, twigs, food waste and other organic material to the bottom.
- Fill your bed with 80% finished compost, and 20% topsoil.
- With this mix there should be no reason to fertilize.
- After planting mulch. This will help keep moisture in while slowly releasing nutrients.



# Raised Lasagna Garden





# Straw Bale Gardening



## Prepping The Bales

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- Configure the Straw Bale Garden. Once soaked with water, straw bales are very heavy, so plan the position of your straw bale garden first, before planting.
- Prep the Bales. Prepping straw bales (sometimes called conditioning) involves starting the decomposition process before planting.
- Water straw bales daily for two weeks before planting. This starts the bale decomposing

# NT MORE IN LESS TIME!



**EFFICIENTLY PLANT**  
vegetables, flowers,  
bare root trees,  
shrubs



**CAN MIX**  
seed, soil,  
fertilizer  
and mortar  
mix!



## Time to plant

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- After the bales have been soaked for 2 weeks it is time to prep them to plant.
- Make sure you have any stakes and supports in place before planting.
- First dig out holes about 6" deep and 3" across where you plan on planting. A drill with a auger for planting bulbs works great.



- Add compost or good quality garden soil into the holes
- Mix a little fertilizer in with the soil or compost
- Plant your seeds or plants as you would in the garden.
- If you choose you can cover the whole top of the bale with soil, compost, or grass clippings. This will hold in moisture.
- Make sure to keep grass clippings about 2” from stem of plants
- Water as needed. Bales retain water well, which means less watering

## Growing Up

- Vining plants like cucumbers, or pole beans
- Old swing sets
- Cow panel hoops



## Going vertical

- Grow bags
- Pallets
- Fence









## Hydroponics & Aquaponics





# Tower Garden

## Mason Jars

- Buy hydroponics basket
- Fill with Perlite
- Fill jar with water mixed with fertilizer  $\frac{1}{4}$  strength



# Some Other Options

Areo Garden







