



www.ezfromseed.org

Container Gardening Ideas

Make the most of your patio space by filling your containers with edibles. Chard, kale, peppers, tatsoi and bok choy, herbs, lettuce and other greens thrive in containers. And what garden in complete without tomatoes! The bigger the pot, the better the yield.



Left to right: Prizm hybrid kale; 'Wild Magic' basil at Chanticleer Garden; Ordone hot pepper; Pot of Gold Swiss chard

No plot of land? No problem!

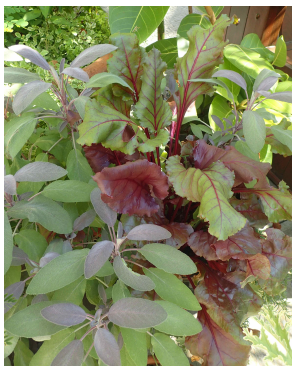
Urban gardeners have discovered that growing dinner on the patio outside your kitchen door is easily done. Here are a few ideas that will have you picking dinner all summer long.

Pots of herbs will flavor your meals

Singly or in combination, herbs add a touch of graciousness to your patio or deck—and to your meals. Oregano, marjoram, dwarf basil, chives, parsley, sage, and thyme are a few kitchen herbs that can be started by sprinkling about a dozen seeds in a medium-sized pot. To grow large-leaf basil, fill a large container—at least 10 inches in diameter—with soil mix, sprinkle 6 to 8 seeds on top, and lightly cover the with the soil mix. Thin to 3 or 4 plants. You'll have pesto in no time!



Oregano thrives in a container



Sage and beets at Chanticleer Garden

Combine vegetables with herbs

Pair herbs with vegetables and you'll have a meal in a pot. Here are five all-season edible combinations to try:

- Patio tomato with dwarf basil and chives
- Red-ribbed chard and parsley
- Lacinato kale underplanted with oregano
- Pepper or eggplant, combined with thyme
- Sage, with edible nasturtiums

Grow a pot of peppers

Peppers, particularly smaller-fruited varieties, grow well in pots. By the end of the season they will be so colorful and beautiful, you may be reluctant to harvest them. Use a generous-sized pot of 10 inches or larger, and be prepared to support your plants as they grow tall. Some may need staking, others will be fine without it. A few varieties to try: compact bell peppers, or fun specialty varieties such as habanero (or mild habanero), Thai peppers, or Italian frying peppers.



The ghost pepper: beautiful and very hot!

Tomatoes need space!



You can grow tomatoes in container. The single most important imperative for growing tomatoes in pots: pots need to be large, at least 5 gallons. For detailed information on soil, varieties, and care, see our article *Growing Tomatoes in Containers* at ezfromseed.org.

Asian vegetables are tasty, and attractive too

Asian greens, such as tatsoi, mizuna, and red mustard, are fast growing and tasty. Sprinkle seed about an inch apart and cover lightly with soil. Harvest individual plants or cut the leaves as baby greens. Seed bok choy in a large container and thin to 6 inches or more, depending on the variety. Add the thinnings to your salad.



Sow tatsoi seed directly in a container.

Plant containers with lettuce; follow up with flowers

Lettuce is the ultimate container vegetable—easy from seed, fast growing, and delicious. Plus, your container will be out of reach to rabbits. Sow lettuce seeds about an inch apart and cut baby greens when they are about 4 inches high, or thin to 6 inches or more to allow them space to grow into big beautiful heads.

When your lettuce has run its course, sow pollinator-friendly flower seeds, such as nasturtiums, dwarf cosmos, or zinnias, in their place.

