



Vegetables & Varieties Ideal for Container Gardening



For recommended planting dates in New Mexico see: https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_circulars/CR457B

Flowering Plants (tomatoes, beans, zucchini, etc.) require a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight per day

Edible Leaves (lettuce, collards, kale, etc.) require a minimum of 4 hours of sunlight per day

Edible roots (turnips, carrots, beets, etc.) require a minimum of 3 hours of sunlight per day

VEGETABLE	TYPE OF CONTAINER	RECOMMENDED VARIETIES	WHEN TO PLANT	NOTES
Asian Greens	minimum container depth: 4-6"	Mizuna, Mustards, PakChoi (Green Fortune), Tatsoi	cool season	Fast growing, shallow rooted
Basil	minimum container depth: 8"	Genovese, Globe, Largeleaf Italian, Purple Ruffles, Red Rubin, Siam Queen, Spicy Globe, Sweet Basil	warm season	Grows well with tomatoes
Beans, Green	5 gal. window box, minimum container depth: 6"	Bush types such as Blue Lake, Bush Romano, Contender, Greencrop, Kentucky Wonder, Montepellier, Tender Crop, Topcrop, Tricolor come as both bush and pole bean	warm season	Climbing types work too, if you have a good trellis support
Beets	5 gal. window box, minimum container depth: 10"	Chiogga, Detroit Dark Red, Early Red Ball, Early Wonder, Golden, Little Egypt, Scarlet Supreme	cool season	Can grow in partial sun
Broccoli	1 plant/5 gal. pot, 3 plants/15 gal. tub	DeCicco, Green Comet, Italian Green Sprouting, Super Blend	cool season	Choose early maturing, compact varieties
Brussels Sprouts	1 plant/5 gal. pot, 2 plants/15 gal. tub	Evesham, Jade Cross	cool season	
Cabbage	1 plant/5 gal. pot, 3 plants/15 gal. tub	Discovery, Dwarf Modern, Early Jersey Wakefield, Little Leaguer, Red Ace	cool season	Take a second crop off a cabbage plant by harvesting the first head, then cutting a cross on the remaining stem which will then produce 4 smaller heads
Carrot	minimum container depth: 8"	Baby Finger, Baby Finger Nantes, Danvers Half Long, Goldenhart, Little Finger, Minicor, Ox Hart, Royal or Red Cored Chantenay, Short & Sweet, Thumbelina, Tiny Sweet	cool season	Smaller, shorter varieties grow best. You can eat the ones you thin, too.
Chard	1 plant/2 gal. pot, minimum container depth: 8"	Bright Lights, Parma Giant, Scarlet Charlotte	cool season	
Collard Greens	1 plant/2 gal. pot, minimum container depth: 8"	Any variety	cool season	
Cucumber	1 plant/3-5 gal. pot	Burpee Hybrid, Burpless Farly Pik, Bush Champion, Bush Whopper, Crispy, Fanfare, Lemon, Marketmore 86, Parks Burpless Bush, Patio Pik, Pot Luck, Salad Bush, Salty, Spacemaster, Sweet Success	warm season	Look for bush variety as opposed to vining

Eggplant	1 plant/3 gal. pot	Asian Bride, Bambino, Black Beauty, Florida Market, Green Goddess, Ichiban, Long Tom, Mission Bell, Modern Midget, Slim Jim, Small Ruffled Red, Thai Green	warm season	
Green Onion	can be grown in a cake pan	Beltsville Bunching, Crystal Eax, Evergreen Bunching	cool season	You'll have better luck growing these than full sized onions
Kale	1 plant/2 gal. pot, minimum container depth: 8"	Lacinato, Showbor dwarf	cool season	
Lettuce	minimum container depth: 4"	Bibb, Buttercrunch, Dark Green Boston, Grand Rapids, Little Gem, Oak Leaf (heat tolerant), Romaine, Ruby, Salad Bowl, Tom Thumb	cool season	If you eat it as baby lettuce, you can grow lettuce in a very shallow bowl, even a seed flat. Just cut the lettuce leaves and they will grow back. Can be grown in partial shade.
Parsley	minimum container depth: 8"	Evergreen, Gigante Italian, Moss Curled, Sweet Curly	cool season	Can be grown in partial shade
Peas	minimum container depth: 6-12"	Super Sugar Snap, Oregon Giant (snowpea), Little Marvel, Sugar Bon, Sugar Mel, Laxton's Progress, Sugar Rae, Melting Sugar, Burpee's Blue Bantam, Early Patio, Snowbird	cool season	
Pepper	1 plant/2 gal. pot, 5 plants/15 gal. tub	Bell Boy, California Wonder, Canape, Jalapeno, Keystone Resistant, Long Red Cayenne, New Ace, Red Cherry, Sweet Banana, Thai Hot, Yolo Wonder	warm season	
Potatoes	pot should be at least 18" wide, start with 10" of soil in a 3 ft. deep container	Charlotte, Epicure, Irish Cobbler, Kennebec, Red Pontiac. Early (new) potato varieties are best.	warm season	To sprout potatoes, stand them in a warm, dark place with the buds pointing upwards. Fill a pot half way with used soil, then place the sprouted potatoes sparsely in soil and cover with 1" of soil. Water well and wait for foliage to appear. Feel around for a tuber to see if they're ready.
Radish	minimum container depth: 4-6"	Burpee White, Champion, Cherry Belle, Comet, Early Scarlet, French Breakfast, Icicle, Scarlet Globe, Sparkler	cool season	Consider interplanting these in pots among other slower growing vegetables (such as carrots or tomatoes); they'll be ready to harvest by the time the other plants need more space. Can be grown in partial shade.
Spinach	minimum container depth: 8"	America, Avon Hybrid, Dark Green Bloomsdale, Melody	cool season	
Summer Squash	1 plant/5 gal. pot	Baby Crookneck, Creamy, Diplomat, Dixie, Early Prolific Straightneck, Gold Neck, Golden Nugget, Gold Rush, Scallopini, Senator, (Green) Zucco, most Zucchini varieties	warm season	Squash can really vary on how compact the plants are. Try for these varieties or anything that lists compact growing.
Tomatoes	1 plant/5 gal. pot Bushel Baskets	Better Boy VFN, Burpee's Pixie, Early Girl, Patio, Pixie, Red Robin, Saladette, Small Fry, Spring Giant, Sugar Lump, Sweet 100, Tiny Tim, Toy Boy, Tumbler Tom (for hanging baskets)	warm season	Lean toward cherry tomatoes and small tomatoes as opposed to Beefsteak tomatoes. Also, varieties that are determinate will be a bush variety which works better for containers. If you grow an indeterminate variety, make sure you have something for the vines to grow on.

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