



Creating and Maintaining Your Container Gardens

Create-

Planting a Container Garden is a simple way to enjoy flowers. Have your entrance or favorite outdoor living space filled with color by grouping containers of flowers together. It is a great way to get color if you do not have a lot of time to spend gardening. The fun thing about containers is they can be changed so you can always try new things. The containers don't have to be limited to pots. Baskets, old wash tubs or barrels – anything that will hold soil will do. It is also an economical way to try new flowers and combinations.

Plant -

Before you plant, think of where your containers are going to go. Will they be on a cool, shady patio or a deck facing the sun and wind? By knowing if your containers are going to be in the sun or shade you can select the right flowers for the right spot.

To grow good flowers you need to plant them in a good base so they will thrive. It only takes three things to get your flowers to take off. Soil, water retention granules and fertilizer.

- Use a soilless mix especially blended for containers. The mixes promote good root growth.
- Use water retention granules placed in the bottom third of the container to slow down drying out.
- Use a slow release fertilizer at planting time; followed by a liquid feed every 2-3 weeks. If planting vegetables or herbs use organic fertilizers.

Maintain

As your flowers are growing, their roots are busy drinking up all the water you give them. In the cool of early spring and with newly planted pots your containers will not need as much water – I let the top dry out so as not to over water. As it gets warmer and your flowers are growing they will need more water. Your containers will let you know when they need a drink. Use a saucer so the pots can take up extra water as they need it in the summer. Generally, watering 2-3 times a week is all that is needed.

Deadheading

To keep your Containers looking fresh, groom them every two weeks by pinching out spent flowers and pinching back leggy trailers. Don't be afraid to give them a good trim! Enjoy!