

Bonus Content: 10 Container Gardening Tips from the Experts

For Monty Don of Gardener's World, however small your garden and whatever its style, there's always room for some pots. Even a complete novice can create a spectacular container garden. All you really need to get started is a container, some potting soil and either seeds or plants.

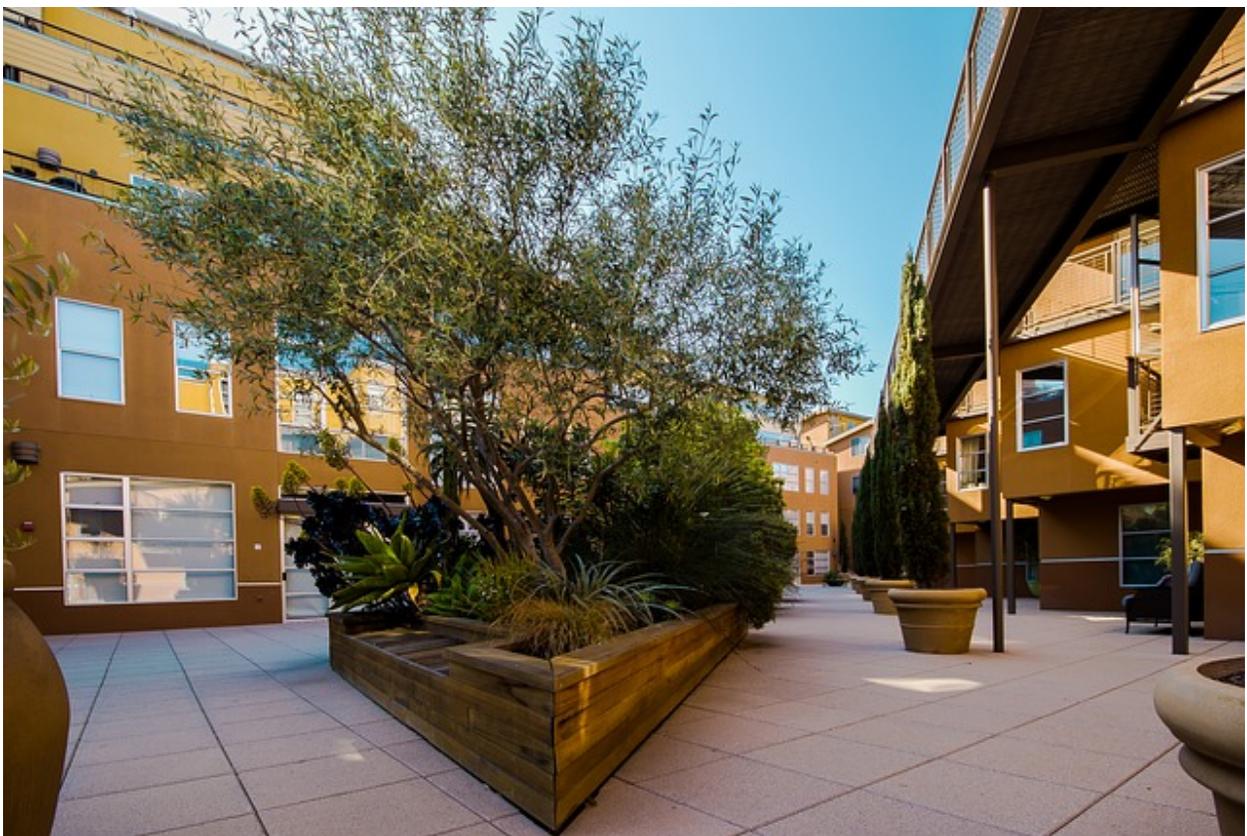
To make it easier for you, we've put together the best tips we could find. Here's your guide on starting and maintaining a successful garden in pots or planters. If you're ready to jump in, read on for advice from those who've done it before.



1. You can grow almost anything in a pot, but the key thing to remember is that it won't survive on its own. Putting a plant in a container makes it totally dependent on you for water and food. - Louise Hampden – Gardeners' World



2. Small containers have the tendency to dry out faster. It's best to choose the biggest pot you can. Large containers have larger soil volume so the plants won't need to be watered as often. (Kerry Meyer – Proven Winners)



3. If space is in short supply, then use bulbs in pots for an immediate impact. When they are just on the point of flowering in the spring, you can plant the whole pot in a border to provide an instant splash of colour. (Louise Hampden – Gardeners' World)



4. The first thing to remember in watering containers is to leave at least an inch between the surface of the soil and the rim of the pot, and to stick to this even in the smallest pots. This space at the top is for the water, otherwise it just bounces off before it has the chance to soak in. (Monty Don – Gardener’s World)



5. Don’t fill in the wrong place. Large containers can be overwhelmingly heavy, especially once their filled with soil and plants. To save your back, make sure to place your pot where it will live before filling it. (Kerry Michaels – Growing the Northeast Garden)



6. Put the right plant in the right place to get the combination right. It's no good planting a shade lover next to a sun worshiper, or adding a plant that overpowers the rest. To look right, a pot should be about 1/3 of the height of the tallest plants. (Matt Biggs – Gardener's World)



7. Make a list before buying plants. List down the plants you want for your containers before going to the nursery. If you're completely overwhelmed by the choices, you may either buy too much, or buy nothing at all because you can't make a decision. (Kerry Michaels – Growing the Northeast Garden)



8. Fill your containers with a quality commercial potting soil. Never use soil directly from your garden because, when dry, it will harden into a solid mass. Quality potting soil should include generous helpings of peat moss, compost, perlite, vermiculite, and/or rotted manure. Read the label before you buy. (Doug Jimerson – Better Homes and Gardens)



9. Figs will fruit much better if you restrict the root growth, which makes them ideal for growing in containers. If planted directly into the ground, figs make lots of leaf growth and become large without producing much fruit. (Louise Hampden – Gardeners' World)



10. Know how much light your container will get before you choose your plants. Take photos at different times of day to discover how the sun varies

across your space. Observing and interacting and can lead to a great outcome.
(Hedvig Murray – UK permaculture designer)



Even the smallest space can be enhanced by a container garden. You can start out with keeping the combinations of colours and textures simple. As you grow in experience, you can start adding your signature style to your pots and plants. To be a successful container gardener, all you need is the willingness to experiment, and a love of playing in the dirt!