

Weekly Column
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Container Gardening

Gardening can be done in more than one way, and if you have limited space or just want to start small, container gardening may be right for you. It still gives you the enjoyment of growing your own vegetables and flowers but can be done on a smaller scale. Container gardens can be grown on porches, patios, and even balconies. With proper care, a container garden can flourish and produce great vegetables and flowers.

Containers used for planting can be many different sizes and shapes and made out of different types of materials. Plastic and metal are just a couple of choices you have for a container garden. Redwood and cedar are two types of wood that are good for container gardens because they are naturally water resistant and will not rot. It is important to make sure there are holes in the bottom of your container so excess water can drain out easily. Too much water will damage the root system.

Container gardens can still have insect and disease problems, so be sure to inspect them for anything unusual. Removing insects, dead leaves, and dead flowers can help to reduce the damage caused by insects and disease. Weeds can also be a problem for container gardens. Be sure to avoid using soil that may have seeds from weeds in it. If you see weeds sprouting up in your container garden, try to remove them while there are small.

Container gardens offer so many possibilities and can be grown in many things from a reused plastic container to an old tire. They can also be great space savers. For more information on container gardens, you can visit the web at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-200.pdf>. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.

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