



CONTAINER GARDENING

Steve McIntyre

Yavapai County Master Gardener



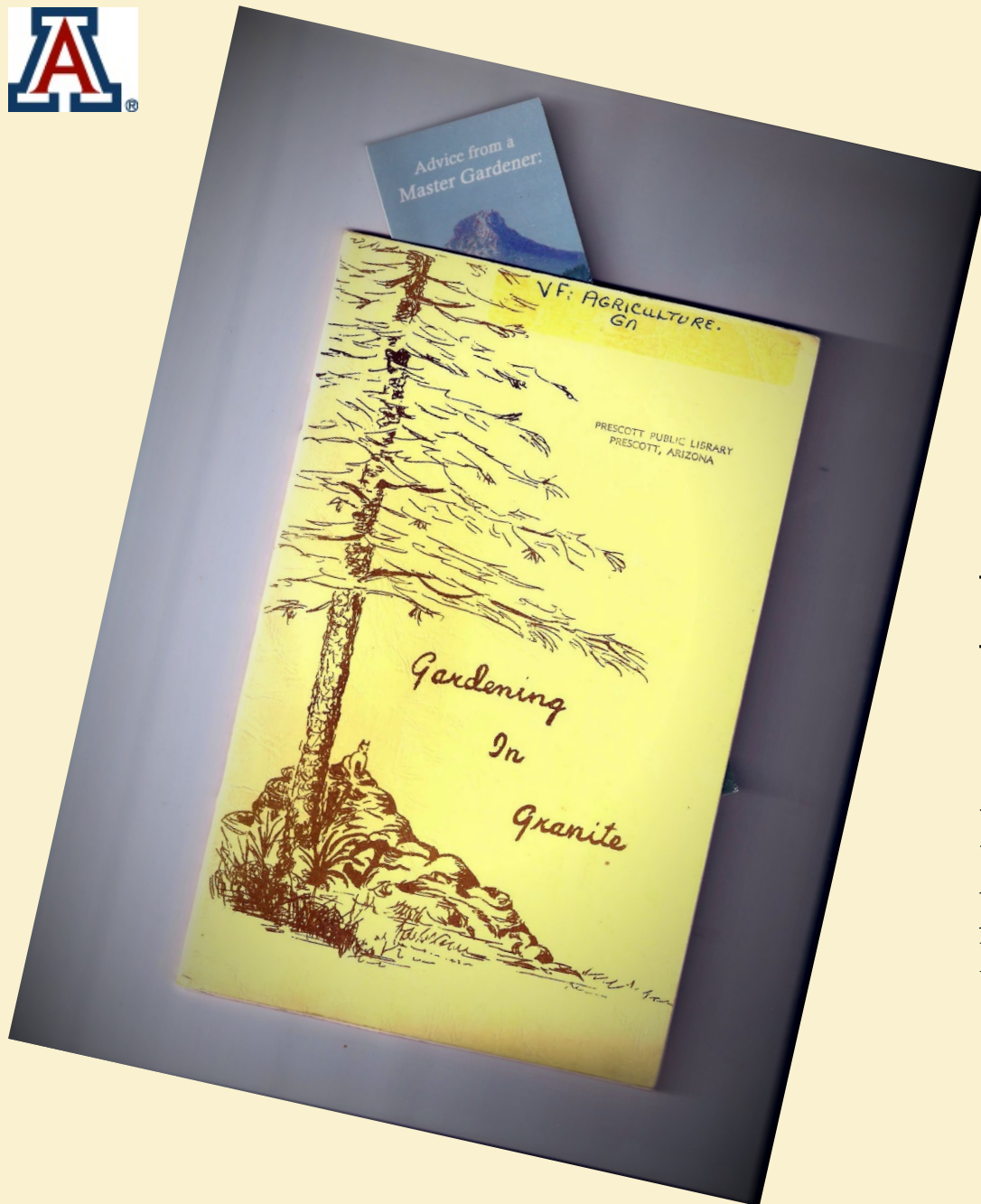
Wednesday, October 28, 6:30 pm





Prescott Public Library





PRESCOTT GARDEN CLUB
Arizona's oldest garden club
Organized 1931

CONTAINER GARDENING

“Well-suited for low-growing shrubs, annuals, herbs, sedums, foliage plants, geraniums, etc.”
Printed 1969



The Fascination of Gardening...



WHY?



- Beauty
- Relaxing
- Learn new things
- Personal Expression
- **IT'S FUN!**

**155 million people garden in the US (50%)
Annual sales \$70 billion**



What are we going to talk about?



- Container Gardening
 - Advantages
 - Disadvantages
- What's Critical?
- Watering
- Fertilizer
- Vegetable Suggestions
- “Let's Pot Something”
- Planting Strategies
- Questions/Comments





Kinds of Gardens?



Container





Container Gardening vs. House Plants



Container Plants



House Plants



Advantages of Container Gardening

- Works in small spaces
 - apartment balconies, small courtyards, decks, patios,
 - Can be portable; follow the sun, *and* take it with you when move
 - add **color**, **shape** and **size**
 - protects plants from gophers, squirrels, rabbits, other critters by adding simple exclusion mechanisms





Container Covers





Advantages of Container Gardening



- add versatility; growing Meyer Lemons indoors/outdoors
- areas with poor soil
- **limited mobility**, limited time
- excellent for beginners and advanced gardeners



Containers for gardens come in all sorts of sizes and shapes...



These boots were made for...gardening



Ripped bag



Rusted out BBQ



Clay pot



Lots of things



Concrete blocks



Containers for gardens come in all sorts of sizes and shapes...



OLD TIRES

???



Heirloom
TONKA TOYS



Ceramic

**MUST BE
FREE OF
TOXIC
RESIDUES**



Disadvantages

- May need to be watered frequently due to heat absorption





Adequate drainage is critical

- Adequate drainage is critical
- Plants need oxygen, will not grow if roots are continually in water-logged soil
- Drill holes in container with masonry drill bits





Container Soil

- Drains well
- Able to retain moisture
- Well aerated





Container Soil; two views



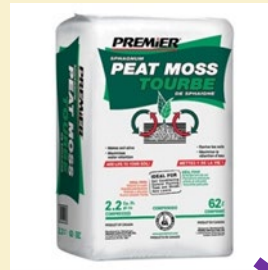
Sterile Potting Mix



DIY Mixture



Native Soil



Perlite

Peat Moss



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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION



- 6 TO 8 hours full sun daily for most vegetables, annuals
- Filtered sun for herbs, lettuce, hostas
- Convenient to water
- Out of the wind
- Consider sun screens



Watering



- Tip of the finger, 1 inch rule
- Potting soil pulling away from side of pot
- To avoid salt build up with our local water, apply water until actually starts to drain out of the bottom.
- MULCH





Special Conditions



← WATER WICK



Fertilizing



- Frequent watering will leach fertilizer out of the planting medium
- Vegetables: half strength liquid fertilizer every 10 to 14 days
- Annual flowers once a month



Let's Grow Something

Turnips to tomatoes; match the container to what you want to grow

Vegetable	Root Depth	Container Size
tomatoes, eggplant, pepper, cucumbers, bush beans	12 to 18 inches	5 gallon
beets, carrots, lettuce, green onions	8 to 12 inches	3 gallon
radishes, most herbs, annual flowers (taller will have longer roots)	6 inches	1 gallon



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Yavapai County

Bulletin #51

Yavapai County Vegetable Planting Dates

Warm Season Crops: bean, cantaloupe, cucumber, corn, eggplant, herbs, okra, pepper, pumpkin, squash, tomato, watermelon

Cool Season Crops: beet, carrot, chard, collard, leaf lettuce, onion, pea, radish, spinach, turnip

Vegetable	Planting Dates		
	2000 – 3000 Foot Elevation <i>Black Canyon City</i>	3000 – 4500 Foot Elevation <i>Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Sedona, Skull Valley</i>	4500 – 6000 Foot Elevation <i>Chino Valley, Dewey, Prescott, Prescott Valley</i>
Asparagus	Oct 1-Mar 1	Feb 15-Apr 1	Apr 1-30
Bean, bush	Mar 1-Apr 1 Jul 15-Aug 15	Apr 25-Jul 15	May 15-Jul 1
Bean, pole	Jul 15-Aug 10	Apr 25-Jul 15	May 15-Jul 1
Bean, lima	Mar 1-Apr 1	Apr 25-Jul 15	May 15-Jul 1
Bean, edible soy	Apr 1-Jun 1	May 15-Jul 15	May 25-Jul 1
Beet	Aug 25-Apr 1	Mar 1-May 15	May 1-Jul 15
Broccoli	Jul 25-Oct 1	Apr 15-Jul 15	Apr 1-Jul 1
Brussels sprouts	Aug 15-Oct 1	Jul 1-Aug 1	Jun 1-Jul 1



Vegetable Suggestions



What grows well in containers

Tomatoes	“Patio Tomatoes”	Tiny Tim, Sweet 100, Early Treat hybrid
Peppers and eggplant	Compact plants	Grow on trellis or wire support
Summer Squash Bush type	Spacemaster zucchini, mini zuc	Grow vertically
Cucumber	Spacemaster 80, lemon cucumber	Bush type, compact
Loose Leaf Lettuce	Great Lakes, Simpson, Mesclun, Arugula	Loose leaf will re-grow; Arugula can be grown year- around with protection

THINK VERTICAL !



Planting Strategies



Succession planting

- same crop; stagger starting dates
- different crop, vary by maturity
 - Simpson (45d) followed by Detroit beets (60d)

Intercropping/Companion Planting

- short maturity with long; radishes (35d) with carrots (70d)
- add a flower-marigolds repel some insects

Intensive Spacing

- reduce by as much as 50%, increase fertilizing, water as needed
- stagger rows (zig-zag) to maximize



What to take away?



- Good drainage critical
- Soilless growing medium has advantages
- Containers will need more watering than in-ground
 - fingertip rule (1 inch)
- Size container to what you want to grow
- Fertilize vegetables often because of leaching effect
- Many planting strategies





Thanks to the following free clip art,
images sources and container
gardening information:



<http://www.picgifs.com/clip-art/gardening/>

<http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/gardening/advice/g2258/perfect-potted-plants/>



SFGate.com

Square Foot Gardening
By Mel Bartholomew





ONE MORE CONTAINER?





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visit our website at
extension.arizona.edu/yavapai

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Cooperative Extension
Yavapai County