Prescott Public Library
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?

- In-ground
- Raised
- 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

Steve’s
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
- Rusted out BBQ
- Clay pot
- Ripped bag
- Concrete blocks
- Lots of things
Containers for gardens come in all sorts of sizes and shapes...

Ceramic

OLD TIRES

???

MUST BE FREE OF TOXIC RESIDUES

Heirloom TONKA TOYS
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

Equal Amounts
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*

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

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

What grows well in containers

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

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?
For more information about our programs, visit our website at extension.arizona.edu/yavapai

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