

Planters



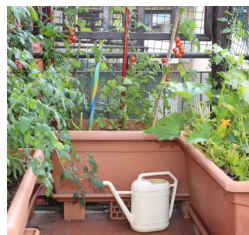
What are planters?

Planters are containers, from pots to raised beds, that help grow plants on pavement, decks, or other impervious surfaces; where soil contamination or poor soil conditions exist; or to improve the aesthetics of outdoor spaces.



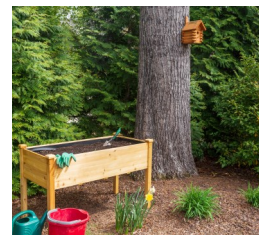
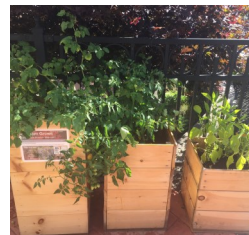
Considerations

- **Planter Size:** Choose planters that are about half the height of your plant to give their roots plenty of space to grow and to help them from blowing over. Most seed packets and seedlings will have information on ideal planter diameter.
- **Drainage Holes:** Whether using clay, plastic, wood, metal, or recycled containers, water needs to drain through the soil. Holes (~ $\frac{1}{4}$ "") can easily be drilled into many containers if needed.
- **Plant Selection:** Look for edible or decorative varieties that specify they do well in planters. Check perennial plant hardiness zones to determine how to overwinter the plant.
- **Soil Type:** Add coconut fiber or select a soil with high organic content to help maintain air and moisture within the soil.
- **Height:** Use a variety of planter heights to add variation and depth to your plantings by mixing and matching plant heights within planters or between planters.



Raised Beds

Raised beds are large planter boxes particularly used in places with poor or contaminated ground soils and/or as a more accessible and ergonomic method for growing gardens. When used in places with contaminated ground soils, prevent roots from accessing the contaminated soils by placing raised beds on legs or using a barrier at the bottom of the bed such as wood.



Maintenance

- Compost your annual plants once they've died and clean the planter for storage.
- Based on plant hardiness zones, perennials in smaller planters should be brought inside for the winter or buried in the ground for extra insulation.
- Larger planters like raised beds can provide enough insulation for perennials to overwinter in place. Add straw, leaves, wood chips, seaweed, or other types of mulch in the fall to help insulate the raised bed and add new organic matter to the raised bed.
- In the spring, check if your plant needs to be transplanted to a larger planter or refresh your soil with compost to add nutrients.

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