



Joe's Greenhouse Newsletter

May 2017

Small Spaces, Big Results

I was recently able to attend a small space gardening class provided by some of our Joe's Greenhouse professionals. It was so inspiring! Trust me, if you think you don't have room for planting, think again! Small space gardening is also great for getting started with gardening without getting overwhelmed, or for seasoned gardeners looking to add plants to their already plant-populated yards and gardens. Listed below are a few of my favorite solutions and ideas for gardening in small spaces.

Pots and Planters

Planters are an easy way to keep gardening simple. Here are some quick tips to get you started:

Sunlight. All plants need light to some degree for growth to take place. Some need less, others more. Look for sunny windows, porches, balconies, and patios when considering a place for a planter. Check with us to make sure you are fitting the right plants in the right light environment.

Soil. Potted plants tend to be especially picky about the soil they thrive in. One good way to know quality planting soil is to ask retailers what they use to grow their plants in—such as "Joe's Special Blend."

Watering. Everyone knows that under-watering your plants is not a good idea. But overwatering can be harmful too. Don't know if you're droughting or drowning your plants? A good place to start is simply testing the soil with your finger. If it's dry, give it some water. If it's moist, hold off for another day or two. Ideally water more deeply less often. Water slowly until water flows out the bottom of the planter. Most planters need to be watered every day in the heat of summer, especially in places that reflect a lot of heat, such as a concrete porch. Remember, the smaller the planter, the faster it will dry out.



Top Left: Fuchsia Hanging Basket **Top Right:** White Verbena Hanging Basket **Bottom Right:** Petunia Hanging Baskets

Drainage. Make sure pots have good drainage holes in the bottom. Despite what you've heard, rocks at the bottom of your pots don't do much except make it heavier than necessary. Instead, try placing planters on matching or clear plastic trays to reduce the mess.

Plants are like puppies. They may look small now, but can outgrow your space quickly. Keep the mature size of plants in mind when choosing planters for them. Unsure what to look for? Many plants have a counterpart in a smaller size, so ask any of us at Joe's Greenhouse for help in selecting a plant that would be right for you.

Choose a planter that makes you happy. Just like plants, planters come in a variety of shapes and sizes, so pick something that will lift your spirits and make you smile.

Hanging Baskets

Hanging Baskets are my all-time favorite for small space growing. I love hanging baskets because they are so versatile in location, look, and function. Not only incredibly eye-catching, hanging baskets can be lifted up out of the way into space that wouldn't be utilized otherwise. Also, there is almost an endless combination of trailing flowers that just give porches and patios a "wow" factor.

Vegetables

Want to grow vegetables but don't have a lot of room? Many vegetables can be extremely successful in planters. For example, Onions, chives, and peppers are ideal for patio growing because of their compact foliage. Although most varieties of tomatoes can be grown in planters, some varieties are especially designed for small spaces, such as the Patio tomato and Bush Best Boy. We've also been extremely successful growing cherry tomatoes in containers, such as Sweet 100.

Herbs

Herbs are not only economical and easy to grow, they are also a lot of fun! Joe's Greenhouse carries many varieties of herbs, including old favorites like cilantro and tarragon. Some of my favorite Joe's Greenhouse herbs add a little excitement to dishes, such as Lemon Thyme, Chocolate Mint, and our new Thai Basil. Yum! I like herbs because they not only provide aesthetic beauty to an area, but give great taste and fragrance as well. Herbs grown in a window are a good choice for those with no space outdoors.

Need more help or inspiration? Visit Joe's Greenhouse for answers to your questions and learn more about creating the perfect small space garden.



Top: Walla Walla Onion Starts **Middle:** Trailing Lobelia
Bottom: Petunia and Calibrachoa Hanging Basket