

Crops in pots

You may not have a large garden or allotment, but a wide range of crops can be grown in pots



Crops to try

- Choose compact and fast maturing varieties that require less space and watering:

Dwarf French Beans – a great space-saving alternative to runner beans

Herbs – Basil and parsley can be grown pots on a sunny windowsill

Salad – Look for 'baby-leaf varieties' with leaves that can be picked continuously

Courgettes and Squashes – are prolific and grow well in large pots

Carrots – 'Early Nantes' is a quick growing variety

Tomatoes – varieties like 'Tumbling Tom' is ideal for hanging baskets

Strawberries – are great in pots and hanging baskets

Beetroot – 'Boltardy' is a variety that produces good roots

Potatoes – will happily grow in large pots or even old compost bags

Choosing your pot

- you can use a range of pots other containers (from yogurt pots to old wellington boots!) just make sure it has holes at the bottom
- Choose containers that are large enough for the eventual size of your plant
- Compact herbs and salads are ideal in smaller containers (20 cm wide)
- Vigorous plants such as potatoes, tomatoes and courgettes will need a large pot (45 cm wide)
- Root crops and beans need deep pots at least 25 cm

Drainage material – a layer gravel, broken plant pots, stones or even broken up polystyrene packaging at the bottom of the pot improves drainage

Compost – organic and peat-free is best for plants and the environment

Water well – take care pots can dry out quickly

Feeding – Don't forget to give your plants an extra feed. Living in pots they soon use up all the nutrients in their compost. Get a liquid feed and use once a fortnight

