

KNOW YOUR CONTAINERS

Type of Container	Good Points	Drawbacks
Terra-cotta, unglazed	Beautiful; provides bottom weight for tall plants. Cost low to moderate.	Dries out quickly in hot weather; cracks if it freezes; heavy.
Italian Impruneta	Most durable terra cotta. Frost proof. Distinctive pale pink coloration, heavy for tall plants.	Expensive and heavy.
Glazed Terra Cotta	More durable due to glazing and moderately heavy.	Moderate to high cost and weight.
Wood	Rugged, frost and sun proof. Some wood rot resistant (redwood, cedar, cypress). Holds water and fertilizer longer. Low to moderate cost. Insulates roots in hot weather.	Fades and splits with extreme light/temp.
Concrete/precast	Very durable, with-stands sun and frost. Large variety.	If no drainage can crack with frost. Very heavy. Generally expensive.
Cast Iron	With proper drainage lasts forever.	Fertilizers can cause corrosion. Very heavy and challenging to move. High cost.
Plastic containers	Lightweight; inexpensive, and weather resistant. Holds moisture longer.	May blow over on windy days. Need to use rocks at bottom.
Resin/fiberglass	Check label for UV resistance. Lightweight. Large variety.	Moderate to high cost. Not recommended for food.
Galvanized Metal	Frost proof and sun proof. Lightweight but warm in sun.	Needs drainage holes. Expensive.
Lead	Frost proof and durable.	Heavy, expensive. Can't be used for edibles.

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Carved Stone	Frost proof and sun proof. Lots of variety.	Needs drainage holes which can break pot. High cost.
Wire	Attractive; plants can be set between wires for lush effects.	Needs liner and frequent watering.
Growing Bags	Reusable: these can hang from fences or walls So they don't take up ground space. Good for small seedlings for mass production.	Need frequent watering if hung. Can be messy with needed drainage holes.
Baskets	Easy to find and inexpensive.	Need plastic liners and generally not very durable.
Found Objects	Fun and inexpensive.	Need drainage holes which can sometimes be hard to do, and some materials need plastic liners to prevent rotting (cloth, leather, or wooden crates). Must be very well draining soil.

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