



Vegetable garden in containers

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In big town and metro cities due to population pressure, there is hardly any open space available in houses or buildings to grow vegetables. In that situation, pots and containers can be used to raise the vegetables.

Types of container : Cement pots, earthen pots, pans, wooden barrel, boxes, crates, cans, buckets, tin boxes and drum of various sizes can be used to raise the vegetables. These containers should have at least one hole at the bottom to drain the excess water. These containers can easily be placed on the terrace, balcony, window boxes and varandha, where plenty of sunlight is available.

Tools, manures, seeds, fungicide and insecticides: A container garden needs essentially a khurpi, spade or shovel, watering can, small hand sprayer, garden hose preferably with a sprinkler, bamboo stakes and sutlii. Good soil, sand well decomposed organic matter, nitrogenous fertilizer (urea, CAN) insecticides (Malathion, cypermethrin), fungicides (Bavistin) are important inputs.

Quality seed or planting material is one of important requirement of the garden. The seed can be purchased from NSC (National Seed Corporation), Agricultural universities, research station or other reliable sources. Due to non availability of own seedlings, one can arranged the seedlings from reliable nurseries.

The container mixture should be prepared by mixing good soil sand and well rotten organic matter in equal

quantities Add small quantity of Aldrex or Phorate 10 G granule in the mixture to protect the seedlings from termite red ants and cut worm. The seed should always be treated with Bavistin to avoid nursery diseases like damping – off. After rising a crop for one season mixture of container should be removed and exposed to sun for a few days. This soil could be reused after adding 1/3 the quantity of organic manure and a small quantity of Aldrex or Phorate 10 G granule and Bavistin.

Cultivation : The seedlings of tomato brinjal, chilli, capsicum, broccoli, onion leek parsley can be raised on flat pans. Single healthy seedlings may be transplanted in each container. Several seedling, each of onion lettuce, knol-khol leek can be transplanted in a container of the same size. Two seeds of summer squash, 4-5 seed of cluster bean, cow pea, and okra French beans are sown in such containers. In radish, turnip and beet root, finally 3-5 seedlings are allowed to grow. A thick sowing of the seeds of fenugreek, mustard, kulfa, bathua can be done in the large size of the containers.

After-care: Plants in pots and containers need lot of care. In dry summer vegetables need extra watering, plants should be watered both in evening and morning. Too much watering is avoided in winter also. In the rainy season excess water should be drained out by slight tilting the container or pots. Top dressing with NPK fertilizers



improve the plant growth as well as increase the yield also. This can be done by applying urea DAP and potash in small amount. Higher doses of fertilizers are very harmful, since it kills the plants. If the urea is applied in dry soil, so soon after the application watering should be done. Plants of tomato, bittergourd, cowpea, and summer squash should be staked with bamboo sticks. Hand weeding and hoeing should be done with khurpi to remove the weeds and also for proper aeration of roots. Vegetables are attacked by various insects- pests and diseases. Aphid, jassids, Red pumpkin beetles in cucurbits injured the tender plants

by sucking the sap from leaves. Safe vegetables can be produced by using organic insecticides like NSKE (Neem seed kernal extract), spray of cow urine, spray of ginger garlic extract. Malathion is also a safer insecticide which has less residual effect and can be used @ 2 ml/ltr of water. Fruit fly and fruit borer are also serious pests of vegetables which make the vegetable unfit for consumption. The eggs lay down on the under surface of leaves are destroyed instead of using insecticides. But if the infestation is more the plants should be sprayed with Malathion @ 2 ml/ ltr of water. Sprayed vegetables should not be consumed for 7 days after spraying. Fungal diseases can be control by drenching the soil with Bavistin @ 2g per liter of water. Viral infected plants should be removed and destroyed by digging in pits.

Harvesting and postharvest management: Vegetables

harvested at the stage of maturity are having good flavor and appearance. Leafy vegetables should be picked up frequently when they are succulents and tender. Root vegetables are pulled out when they still tender otherwise delay can cause pithiness and toughness. Pods of okra, pea and other fruit vegetables should be picked when they attain proper size are still tender. Tomatoes are allowed to ripen on plant. Rare vegetables like broccoli, leek, parsley, fennel, which are required in a small quantity for consumption can be advantageously raised in container. Some fruit plants like strawberry, raspberry can also be grown successfully in medium to big size containers.

In fact, vegetables gardening in container is an interesting hobby and useful for the people living in the urban area and metropolitan cities.

The following important vegetables with their varieties can be grown in container:

Vegetables	Varieties
Bittergourd	Pusa DoMousmi, Arka Harit, Pusa Vishesh.
Brinjal	Nisha Improved, Sandhya, Pusa Purple Long, Pusa Purple Cluster, Pusa Purple Round.
Broccoli	Early Green and KTS-1.
Chilli	Pusa jawala, Pusa sadhabahar, CH-1, CH-3.
Capsicum	California Wonder, Yolo Wonder
Cucumber	Poinsett, Pusa Sanyog
Knol khol	White Vienna, Purple Vienna, King of market.
Okra	Varsha Uphar, Panchali, A-4.
Palak	All Green
Tomato	Naveen, Sonali, Shivalik, Kuber Geeta.
Turnip	Purple Top White Globe, Pusa Sweti.

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