

Patio Gardening



Gardens come in all shapes, sizes and colors. There's everything from perennials, mixed with brilliantly colored annuals to xeriscape plantings that provide low maintenance options and a mixture of shrubs and dwarf trees.

These unique mini-spaces do much in the way of making a garden look welcoming and lived in. And, when it comes to spaces where we plant, patios are king. A patio or small space provides an opportunity to take advantage of replicating what we typically see in a large landscape but without the maintenance hassles. In order to get the most from your patio garden, consider these tips, to get started or to continue with your patio garden space.

Tips for Patio Gardening

- Use large pots for plants that mature into huge plants and/or flowers (tropicals like elephant ears, yuccas and ornamental grasses). The bigger the plant, the larger the pot. It's also important to realize that the longer it takes for the plant to mature, the larger the pot that you will need.
- When planting a fruiting plant (e.g. peppers and tomatoes), use more soil. Fruiting plants are great options for container and patio gardens
- Make certain not to overcrowd your plants. Go ahead and use a variety in your planter. However, when you crowd them, they tend to grow spindly - don't over crowd. You can put one tomato plant in a

large plant and have more fruit than planting three or more in the same size pot and having leggy, spindly plants that don't produce as much fruit.

- Our Oklahoma summers can be brutal and most pots get thirsty. Terracotta pots dry out very quickly, so you may need to water both early morning and early evening. Try and keep your pots evenly moist and don't let them dry out between watering.
- Some pots may not have drainage holes. If this is the case, create a few holes in the bottom to prevent water from sitting around the roots of your precious plants.
- If your patio lacks proper sun for sun-loving plants, choose plants that require less sun, like hostas.
- If your patio or space gets lots of wind, consider surrounding your garden with a windbreak like a nice lattice that you can stain a rich color and place in a strategic location.
- It is fine to use a potting mix, but make certain it's rich in compost. Many nurseries have their own unique blend of potting soil that works well.

So, go ahead and plant in containers and watch your garden grow while you enjoy the bounty. Whether you have a small or larger space, low light or full sun, there are many options for Patio Gardening which make it rewarding, enjoyable and fun.