

MAY 2024

# THE Gardener



## THE GARDENING ISSUE

Explore our Gardening Issue, full of helpful tips for your garden, in-depth articles on annuals and perennials, and a sneak peek into our upcoming season. Discover exclusive offers and make sure to save the dates for our exciting events at Bayport Flower Houses.

### A LETTER FROM THE

## Garden

*"To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow"*

Audrey Hepburn

It's easy to focus on the beauty of the plants and flowers surrounding us at Bayport Flower Houses, but what makes this time of the year so special is the joy we see in the people who garden. The excitement is contagious, people sharing stories with what might be strangers if it were not for the mutual love of plants. Grand new garden plans, favorite plants, or a helpful tip to solve a problem - it's this community that connects people to people, people to plants, and people to the earth. I admit that we get caught up too, always listening to the gardeners and growing new or tried and true plants...with thousands and thousands of plant varieties; our zealous quest to have it all is overwhelming at times but oh so interesting and exciting.



Our plants and flowers are outstanding, but our amazing staff truly sets us apart. Whether you need advice on the right plant for your space, assistance with garden challenges, or plant identification...the staff at Bayport Flower Houses is always ready with their expert knowledge.

Healthy plants, expert knowledge, and happy gardeners = Success!

Come and join the fun while you enjoy the beauty of our gardener's wonderland.

See you soon,

*Karl Auwaerter*

OWNER & GENERAL MANAGER

### THE AUWAERTERS ARE GRADUATING!

We are thrilled to announce that not one, not two, but three members of the Auwaerter family will be graduating this year! Lizzy Auwaerter, daughter of Karl Auwaerter, will be receiving her degree in Environment & Sustainability from Cornell University. She plans to work as an Environmental Planner in New York City, with the goal of improving the regional infrastructure. Audrey Saroka, daughter of Christine Saroka, will be graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in Aerospace Engineering, specializing in the Astro track. After graduation, she will be commissioned as a Navy pilot and will report to Pensacola for flight school. Eric Auwaerter, son of John E. Auwaerter, will be graduating from Oberlin College. He has exciting plans for the future that he will be pursuing after graduation. We are extremely proud of our graduates and can't wait to see what great things they will accomplish!



Lizzy & Audrey at the Philadelphia Flower Show back in 2010!



## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

To secure your spot register online at [shop.bayportflower.com](https://shop.bayportflower.com), by phone at (631)-472-0014 or in-store 7 days a week.



### *Patriotic Porch Pots*

Our expert designers will show you how to brighten your curb appeal with a red, white, and blue porch pot!

SAT. MAY 25 AT 10 AM  
\$65 PER PERSON



### *Edible Porch Pots*

You can have your porch pot & eat it too! Join us as we guide you in creating a space-saving and low-maintenance vegetable and herb container garden.

SAT. JUNE 22 AT 10 AM  
\$65 PER PERSON



### *Summer Flowering Porch Pots*

With our guidance you'll choose your beautiful blooms to create a summer container garden for your porch!

SAT. JUNE 15 AT 10 AM  
\$65 PER PERSON



### *Kids Edible Porch Pots*

Kickoff summer with a fun learning activity. We'll show your kids the ease and benefits of growing their own edible garden!

SAT. JUNE 22 AT 3 PM  
\$25 PER CHILD



### *Kid's Flowering Porch Pots*

Design and create a beautiful container garden of summer blooms with your kids to brighten up your porch.

SAT. JUNE 15 AT 3 PM  
\$25 PER CHILD



### *Ladybug Breakfast*

SAT. JUNE 29 AT 9 AM

\$10 DONATION PER FAMILY  
PROCEEDS FOR CORNELL COOP.  
EXTENSION'S CHILDREN'S  
GARDEN AT YAPHANK FARM

## MEMORIES OF OUR FAVORITE PUPS!



2021 - Holly spending time in 2 house!



2016 - Peaty & Walter hanging out in the yard :)



2015 - Roxie & Peaty taking a nap in the office.

MOTHER'S  
DAY IS  
MAY 12TH!

### *Featured Florals*

## *Premium Beautiful Soul*

Our signature colorful arrangement with a little extra! Hydrangea, sunflowers, roses and other seasonal blooms. Perfect for mother's day, graduations, birthdays, and many other celebrations!

ORDER ONLINE NOW



# Let's Get Gardening!

## JUNE WEEKEND SPECIALS

JUNE 14 - 17

*Hydrangea Weekend!*

**20% OFF**

**ALL HYDRANGEA SHRUBS**

Valid in-store at Bayport Flower Houses from June 14, 2024 to June 17, 2024 Only. Not to be combined with other offers. Not valid on gift cards, classes or past purchases.

SKU: NLM245

JUNE 21 - 23

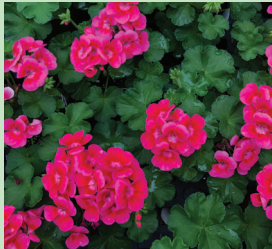
*Rose Weekend!*

**20% OFF**

**ALL ROSE SHRUBS**

Valid in-store at Bayport Flower Houses from June 21, 2024 to June 23, 2024 Only. Not to be combined with other offers. Not valid on gift cards, classes or past purchases.

SKU: NLM244



### PLANT OF THE MONTH

## Geraniums

Geraniums are delightful plants that belong to the genus *Geranium*. They can be found in gardens across temperate regions worldwide. Outstanding colorful flowers in red, pink or white, and summer durability make our home-grown Geraniums the perfect pick for any garden. Available in 5", 6", 9", 13" and hanging baskets.

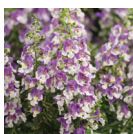
## Sun or Shade?

CONTAINER GARDEN RECIPES BY PROVEN WINNERS



**FOR SUN**

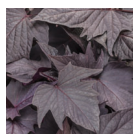
*Dream Come True*



Angelface®  
Wedgwood Blue  
Summer Snapdragon



Diamond Frost®  
Euphorbia

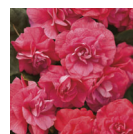


Sweet Caroline  
Bewitched After Midnight™  
Sweet Potato Vine

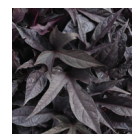


**FOR SHADE**

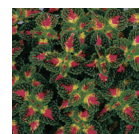
*Ace of Spades*



Rockapulco®  
Coral Reef Double  
Impatiens



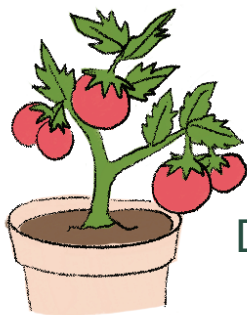
Sweet Caroline  
Raven™ Ornamental  
Sweet Potato Vine



ColorBlaze®  
Strawberry Drop  
Coleus

*All 'Sun or Shade?' Materials and plans are created by Proven Winners and adapted to fit this format.*





# From Pot to Plate

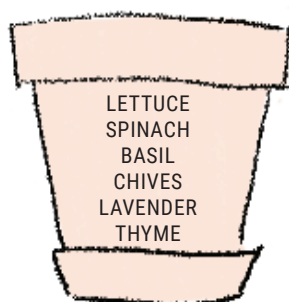


## DESIGNING YOUR EDIBLE CONTAINER GARDEN

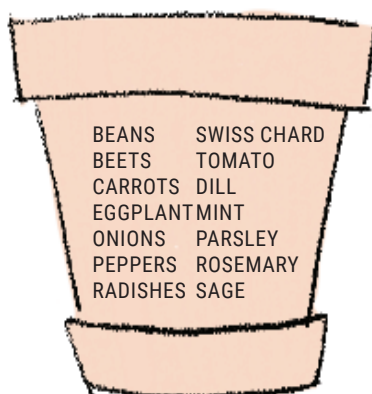
If you're like us, you've undoubtedly seen your fair share of dream-like backyard gardens across social media. Where families joyfully harvest their vegetables and herbs, bursting with flavor and nutrients. Then, they whip up enchanting and exquisite dishes that could rival those of the great Julia Child herself. Well, quit imagining; your home garden dream is not out of reach! We're here to show you that you can easily create and maintain the backyard garden of your dreams, regardless of your space, through edible container plantings.

### MINIMUM POT SIZES FOR YOUR PLANTS BY VARIETY

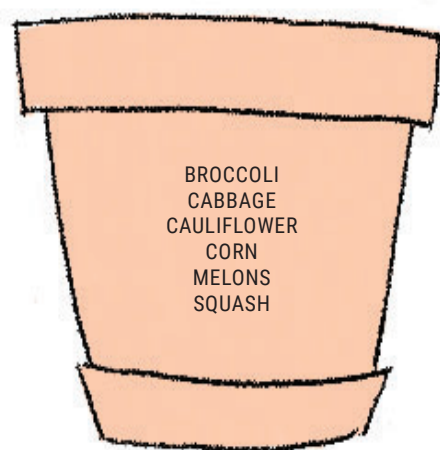
#### SMALL (4" - 6" POT)



#### MEDIUM (8" - 12" POT)



#### LARGE (> 12" POT)



## Selecting The Right Container

Regardless of the size of your space, container plantings are a flexible and creative way to add dimension to your outdoor areas. When deciding the type of container to use, there are three factors to consider: **size, material, and drainage.**

### SIZE

A common mishap for those new to edible container gardening is underestimating the space needed to select flowers, vegetables, and herbs. You want to ensure your plants have enough space to grow to their full potential. To help, see our guide for some common vegetables and herbs you may plant and the minimum container size they need.

If you are interested in planting more than one variety in your edible container, another size consideration is the amount of spacing needed between your plants. Although the specific amount of spacing will vary

between varieties, your container should allow for about two to four inches between each plant at a minimum.

### MATERIAL

There are endless choices regarding container materials that are safe for plants, including wood, clay, fiber, and plastic. You also want to make sure that your container is weather-proof. Ultimately, you should choose a container that fits both you and your plants.

### DRAINAGE

Lastly, your container must have drainage, regardless of size or material. Your container's drainage can determine the success or failure of your edible gardens. You will find or need to add holes to the bottom or lower sides of your container for drainage.

If your container has drainage on the bottom, slightly elevate it from the ground to allow excess water to flow out. If it has drainage on the lower sides, you can let your container rest on the ground.

Once you have double-checked that your container fits the size, material, and drainage criteria of your flowers, vegetables, and herbs, we can get to the fun part—planting.

## Planting Your Edible Garden

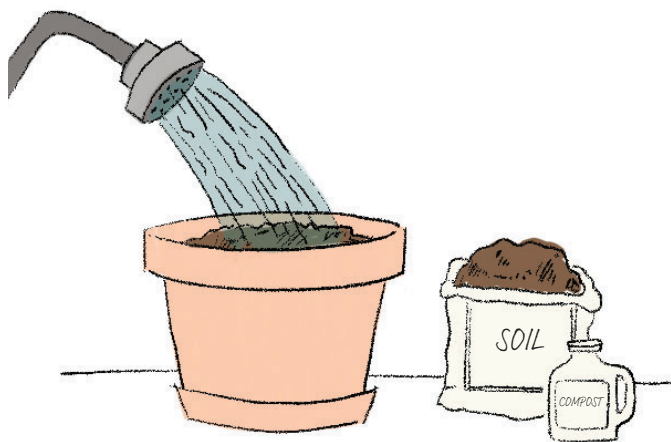
It's peak Springtime in May, the weather is consistently warm, and you have your perfect container - let's get gardening! You'll need a few more items alongside your plants and container to get started:

### SOIL

If you're planning on container gardening, choosing a growing medium that's lightweight and porous is essential. You want one that stays loose, drains well, stays moist, and provides the proper nutrients for your plants to grow. It's best to use an all-purpose potting mix like **Espoma Organic Garden Soil**, made up a rich blend of the finest natural ingredients and enhanced with earthworm castings, feather meal, alfalfa meal, kelp meal, yucca extract and our proprietary blend of mycorrhizae. Avoid using garden soil in containers as it's usually too dense and won't provide adequate plant aeration and drainage.

### FERTILIZER

There are a few options to supplement your soil. You can incorporate products like **Master Nursery® Bumper Crop® Organic Soil Builder** into the soil when planting. Another option is to apply slow-release pellet fertilizer like **Osmocote** on top of the soil at planting. Lastly, you can use water-soluble fertilizer like **Espoma's Grow!** Throughout the life of your plants at the recommended rate outlined in the product. When it comes to fertilizers, more is not better. Follow the product instructions and only apply the minimum amount needed for your plants.



### 1. Mix

Mix water into the soil until it is damp. If using compost, add it to the soil. Fill the container to the desired height, typically about an inch from the top.



### 2. Add

Add plant. Using your fingers or a shovel, dig a hole to the size of your plant's starting point. If starting with seed, sow the seeds at the depth indicated on the seed packet. If starting with young plants, lightly loosen the roots at the bottom, keeping the overall root ball intact.



### 3. Unite

Accommodate your plant to its new home. If using pellet fertilizer, add the indicated amount on the top. Add water to meld your plant into the soil.

COMMON PROBLEMS IN CONTAINER GARDENING

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Plants wilt even with enough water	Poor drainage or Aeration	Either use lighter soil mix or increase the amount of drainage holes
Leaf edges die or “burn: turning dry and brittle	High salt content	At regular intervals, leach container by watering until water drains from holes
Plants look “leggy”, spindly and unproductive	Not enough light or Too much nitrogen	Move plants to an area with more light or apply fertilizer less often and water to drain
Plant begins yellowing	Too much water or Not fertile enough	Water less frequently and check drainage or use fertilizer with higher level of nutrients
Leaves have spots or powdery areas	Area too cold or low phosphate levels or plant diseases	Move to warmer area, remove infected area or use fertilizer with a higher concentration of phosphate
Leaves have small holes or are distorted in shape	Insect damage	Use insecticide, like Neem Oil, suited to the insect damage

Maintaining Your Edible Garden

WATERING

Watering can be a challenging part of maintaining your edible garden. Still, we have some tips to help you determine the best ways. When plants are grown in containers, they tend to dry out much faster than when grown in the ground. To ensure that your plants are adequately hydrated, you should water them once the soil feels dry. Watering may need to be done daily in hot and dry weather. However, avoid waiting too long to water your plants, as excessively dry soil can damage them. To water your plants thoroughly, add water until it runs out of the drainage holes, preferably in the morning. While being attentive is essential, over-watering can be fatal to your edible garden; therefore, always check the soil before watering.

LIGHTING

For healthy growth, most vegetables and annual flowers require at least six hours of full sun. Therefore, place your containers in areas that receive enough light.

STAKING

For plants like tomatoes that may start to slouch once they grow stake them. We have a wide variety for any size container.

INSECTS & DISEASE

It can be frustrating to diagnose and treat insects or diseases in plants. Regular inspections can help you find and resolve these issues quickly. If you need assistance, the team at Bayport Flower Houses is well-educated in addressing any problems you may encounter. Cornell Cooperative Extension has also put together a chart of common issues, causes, and solutions to help you maintain healthy and happy plants.

We've shown you that the edible garden of your dreams can become a reality with container gardening. If you want a more hands-on learning experience, join our *Edible Porch Pot* class with Lead Horticulturist and Owner Karl Auwaerter on *June 22 at 10 AM*. Register online at [shop.bayportflower.com](http://shop.bayportflower.com) to secure your spot.

Reference Article: *Growing Vegetables, Herbs and Annual Flowers in Containers From Cornell Cooperative Extension, Chemung County*

Can You Dig It?

**FREE BAG OF HAMPTON'S ESTATE TOPSOIL**

**YOUR PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE**

Valid in-store at Bayport Flower Houses until May 31, 2024 Only. Limit 1 unit per customer. Not to be combined with other offers. Not valid on gift cards, classes or past purchases.

SKU: NLM242

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



### Patti Kelley

ASST. MANAGER, GIFT WARE  
BUYER & DECORATOR

*Growing With Us Since 2001*

**P**atti has been a key member of our team since 2001. She is responsible for immersive decorations and displays that make Bayport Flower Houses unique. Her creativity and attention to detail are unmatched. Patti also curates our gift offerings and transforms the store to match the essence of each season. But Patti's creativity continues beyond the store. You can also find her beautiful hand-painted designs on our cards, which add a personal touch to any gift. Her unique designs reflect her passion for art and her love for all things beautiful.

#### ***Tell us about when you started at Bayport Flower Houses...***

In 2001, I was in the process of being hired as a color renderer at an architectural firm. During the morning of 9/11, I was going to find out when I would be starting, but due to the tragedy, the company had

a hiring freeze. It was a scary time for everyone. Growing up in Bayport, I knew of Bayport Flower Houses. Even though I didn't know anything about plants, I gave it a try and applied. 22 years later, I'm glad I did!

#### ***What is a memorable moment for you from Bayport Flower Houses?***

The funniest moment at Bayport Flower Houses was when I was on the ladder decorating for Christmas. I was reaching up when I noticed a customer's hand reaching towards me. When I said hello, she jumped. She thought I was a figurine and part of the display. That was pretty funny!

#### ***What are some of your favorite flowers?***

I love Dahlias, Peonies, Pansies, Marigolds and Begonias.

#### ***What is your favorite time of year at Bayport Flower Houses?***

Since I get to be creative all year, it is hard to choose but decorating for Christmas. I start the process in August and finish my displays in November, right before Thanksgiving.

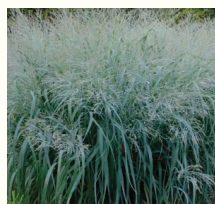
## Native Beauties

PLANTS THAT ARE GOOD FOR YOU & YOUR YARD

We love Native Plants and work closely with local growers to provide you with the best options for Long Island gardens.



Native Blueberries



Switchgrass



Butterfly Weed

*Buy More, Save More!*  
**BULK DISCOUNTS FOR  
ANNUALS, VEGETABLES & HERBS**

Buy **12** or more **2"-5" Pots** Save **10%**

Buy **6** or more **6"-12" Pots** Save **10%**

Buy **3** or more **Hanging Baskets** Save **10%**

Thank you for being a part of our community.  
Here's to *growing* together!



Bayport Flower Houses  
940 Montauk Hwy, Bayport, NY 11705  
(631) 472 - 0014

#### **Spring Hours:**

Monday -Saturday : 8 am - 6 pm  
Sunday : 9 am - 5 pm

