

Container size chart for vegetables

How big a pot, tub or window box should be at least for vegetables and herbs to grow in it. And which compost goes in.

Minimum sizes according to the source. For round pots, width means diameter. US gallons and inches are converted and rounded. “–” means our sources give no value for it.

Plant	Volume	Width	Depth	Plants	Source
Fruiting vegetables · 10					
Aubergine (eggplant)	10 l	30 cm (12 in)	–	–	Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG)
Cape gooseberry	10 l	30 cm (12 in)	–	–	Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG)
Chilli pepper	–	22 cm (9 in)	–	1	RHS
Cucumber	3 gal (11 l)	–	8 in (20 cm)	1	Colorado State University Extension
Melon	–	40 cm (16 in)	40 cm (16 in)	1	RHS
Pumpkin and winter squash	–	45 cm (18 in)	–	1	RHS
Sweet pepper	10 l	30 cm (12 in)	–	–	Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG)
Sweetcorn	–	–	–	–	–
Tomato	10 l	30 cm (12 in)	–	–	Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG)
Zucchini (courgette)	5 gal (19 l)	–	8 in (20 cm)	1	Colorado State University Extension
Beans and peas · 6					
Broad bean (fava bean)	–	40 cm (16 in)	–	–	RHS
Bush bean	–	6 in (15 cm)	–	1	Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service (B. Rosie Lerner)
Pea	–	5 in (13 cm)	–	1	Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service (B. Rosie Lerner)
Pole bean	–	75 cm (30 in)	45 cm (18 in)	–	RHS
Runner bean	–	75 cm (30 in)	45 cm (18 in)	–	RHS
Sugar snap and snow pea	–	45 cm (18 in)	–	–	RHS
Cabbages and turnips · 12					
Broccoli	5 gal (19 l)	–	–	1	Cornell University Garden-Based Learning (Lori J. Brewer)
Brussels sprouts	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	1	RHS
Cauliflower	5 gal (19 l)	–	10 in (25 cm)	1	Colorado State University Extension
Chinese cabbage	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	–	RHS
Kale	5 gal (19 l)	–	10 in (25 cm)	1	Colorado State University Extension
Kohlrabi	–	–	8 in (20 cm)	–	Colorado State University Extension
Pak choi	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	–	RHS
Red cabbage	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	1	RHS
Savoy cabbage	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	1	RHS
Swede (rutabaga)	–	40 cm (16 in)	–	–	RHS
Turnip	2 gal (8 l)	–	–	2	Texas AgriLife Extension (Joseph G. Masabni)
White cabbage	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	1	RHS

Plant	Volume	Width	Depth	Plants	Source
Roots and tubers · 10					
Beetroot	–	–	12 in (30 cm)	–	Oregon State University Extension
Black salsify	–	–	–	–	–
Carrot	–	–	12 in (30 cm)	–	Oregon State University Extension
Celeriac	–	–	–	–	–
Hamburg parsley	–	–	–	–	–
Parsnip	–	–	–	–	–
Potato	–	50 cm (20 in)	–	2–3	Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG)
Radish	1 gal (4 l)	–	–	3	Texas AgriLife Extension (Joseph G. Masabni)
Sweet potato	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	1	RHS
Winter radish (daikon)	–	–	–	–	–
Onions and leeks · 5					
Garlic	–	–	8 in (20 cm)	–	Cornell University Garden-Based Learning (Lori J. Brewer)
Leek	–	40 cm (16 in)	–	4–5	RHS
Onion	–	45 cm (18 in)	45 cm (18 in)	–	RHS
Shallot	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	–	RHS
Spring onion (scallion)	1 gal (4 l)	–	–	3–5	Texas AgriLife Extension (Joseph G. Masabni)
Salads and leafy greens · 12					
Butterhead lettuce	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	–	RHS
Celery	–	–	–	–	–
Endive	–	30–40 cm (12–16 in)	–	–	RHS
Florence fennel	–	40 cm (16 in)	–	up to 3	RHS
Garden cress	–	–	–	–	–
Iceberg lettuce	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	–	RHS
Lamb's lettuce (corn salad)	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	–	RHS
Loose-leaf lettuce	1 gal (4 l)	–	–	2	Texas AgriLife Extension (Joseph G. Masabni)
Radicchio	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	–	RHS
Rocket (arugula)	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	–	RHS
Spinach	–	4 in (10 cm)	–	1	Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service (B. Rosie Lerner)
Swiss chard	2 gal (8 l)	–	8 in (20 cm)	1	Cornell University Garden-Based Learning (Lori J. Brewer)
Herbs · 15					
Basil	–	–	8 in (20 cm)	–	Cornell University Garden-Based Learning (Lori J. Brewer)
Borage	–	30 cm (12 in)	–	1	RHS
Chervil	–	25 cm (10 in)	25 cm (10 in)	–	RHS
Chives	–	20 cm (8 in)	20 cm (8 in)	–	RHS
Coriander (cilantro)	2 gal (8 l)	–	4–6 in (10–15 cm)	–	University of Wisconsin–Madison Extension (Patti Nagai, Vijai Pandian)
Dill	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	–	RHS
Lavender	–	30–40 cm (12–16 in)	–	–	RHS
Lemon balm	–	–	–	–	–

Plant	Volume	Width	Depth	Plants	Source
Mint	–	12–16 in (30–41 cm)	–	–	University of Maryland Extension
Oregano	–	15 cm (6 in)	15 cm (6 in)	1	RHS
Parsley	–	25 cm (10 in)	25 cm (10 in)	–	RHS
Rosemary	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	–	RHS
Sage	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	–	RHS
Summer savory	–	20 cm (8 in)	20 cm (8 in)	–	RHS
Thyme	–	15 cm (6 in)	10 cm (4 in)	1	RHS
Flowers · 5					
French marigold (tagetes)	–	–	–	–	–
Nasturtium	–	–	–	–	–
Pot marigold (calendula)	–	–	–	–	–
Sunflower	–	–	–	–	–
Sweet alyssum	–	–	–	–	–
Green manure · 4					
Buckwheat	–	–	–	–	–
Oilseed radish	–	–	–	–	–
Phacelia	–	–	–	–	–
White mustard	–	–	–	–	–
Perennials · 6					
Asparagus	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	1	RHS
Globe artichoke	–	45 cm (18 in)	45 cm (18 in)	–	RHS
Horseradish	–	30 cm (12 in)	30 cm (12 in)	–	RHS
Jerusalem artichoke	–	45 cm (18 in)	45 cm (18 in)	1–2	RHS
Rhubarb	–	50 cm (20 in)	50 cm (20 in)	–	RHS
Strawberry	–	–	8 in (20 cm)	–	University of Maryland Extension

Use potting compost for flowers or special compost for container plants. (Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG))

For containers planted for years, choose container-plant compost: it keeps its structure and helps prevent compaction and waterlogging at the bottom. (Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG))

Peat-free compost is better for the environment. (Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG))

The container needs a drainage hole so that water cannot collect. (Bayerische Gartenakademie (LWG))

Do not fill containers with garden soil alone: it soon compacts, and then air and drainage are poor. (Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service (B. Rosie Lerner))

Sources

The titles are links. Every value with its source is also online: www.beetfox.com/container-size-chart

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- RHS: How to grow runner beans
- RHS: How to grow peas
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- RHS Grow your own: Endive
- RHS Grow your own: Chicory
- RHS Grow your own: Salad leaves
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- RHS Grow your own: Parsley
- RHS Grow your own: Dill
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- RHS: How to grow chives
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- RHS Grow your own: Oregano
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- 40. RHS Grow your own: Rosemary
- 41. RHS: How to grow lavender (Growing Guide)
- 42. RHS: How to grow borage (Growing Guide)
- 43. University of Maryland Extension: Types of Containers for Growing Vegetables (Stand 20.02.2023)
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- 45. RHS: How to grow asparagus
- 46. RHS: How to grow horseradish
- 47. RHS Grow your own: Jerusalem artichokes
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