

More and more people are planting a vegetable garden, as a means to reduce their grocery bill and eat healthier. There really is nothing fresher than home grown produce.

Many fruits, herbs and vegetables are popular choices for home farming. They are relatively easy to grow, even in small spaces. Consider the following home garden ideas as a starting point, during initial planning stages.

The Possibility of Container Vegetable Gardening

Container vegetable gardening can be just as productive as growing vegetables in the ground. It is an excellent alternative for anyone living in an apartment or urban area, where a traditional garden is out of the question.

Almost any container is suitable, as long as it provides (or can be adapted to provide) adequate drainage. New containers can be purchased at discount stores, garden centers, nurseries, etc. Recycled containers work just as well. Tin pails, old window boxes, large coffee cans, baskets and even old boots are all fair game for container gardening.

Obtain Necessary Home Garden Supplies

Obtaining basic home garden supplies makes the task of gardening that much easier. Purchasing these supplies doesn't have to cost a fortune. Second-hand supplies will typically do the trick, as long as they have been well maintained. Basic supplies to consider include:

- wheelbarrow
- garden hose
- shovel
- pruners
- spade
- garden gloves, comfortable shoes and sun hat

A compost bin is something else to consider. Composting is a wonderful way to dispose of food waste and "feed" garden soil, at the same time.

Purchase Heirloom Vegetable Seeds

Heirloom vegetable seeds allow gardeners to grow a taste of yesterday, in their gardens of today. They are open-pollinated seeds that produce the same variety, season after season. Heirloom seeds are not genetically processed in any way.

Almost every fruit and vegetable comes in at least one heirloom variety. They are readily available from seed clubs, garden catalogs and gardening websites. These seeds can also be found on auction sites such as eBay.

Many heirloom vegetable seeds produce unique vegetables. They include: yellow tomatoes,

carrot-shaped beets, lemon-shaped cucumbers, white pumpkins and purple string beans.

Due to their unusual shapes and colors, heirloom vegetables make for interesting conversation at the dinner table.

Planting a vegetable garden provides many hours of enjoyment and healthier menu choices. It is an activity that the whole family can participate in, no extensive experience required. Gardening is a project that truly makes learning fun. Follow the tips outlined here and start gardening, today!

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