CONTAINER GARDEN QUICK START SHEET · FREE SAMPLE · ONE PAGE

Three Pots, One Season, One Sheet

How big the pot has to be, how much mix to buy, and the fortnight of habits that decides whether it works. Print it, pin it up, fill in the bottom third.

1 · Match the crop to the pot

Suggested starter container *per plant*, and the depth that matters. Needs vary by variety; US gallons.

Tomato — patio / compact	5 gal · 19 L · 12 in
Pepper	3 gal · 11 L · 10 in
Bush beans · chard	2–3 gal · 8–11 L · 8 in
Salad leaves · radishes	1–2 gal · 4–8 L · 6 in
Many herbs · strawberries	1–2 gal · 4–8 L · 6 in

2 · Buy the right amount of mix

Potting mix, never garden soil — soil compacts in a pot and leaves roots no air.

10-in pot (2.5 gal)	8 dry qt · 9 L
12-in pot (4 gal)	12 dry qt · 13 L
14-in pot (6 gal)	18 dry qt · 20 L
Pot sold by the gallon	gal × 3 ≈ dry qt (with headspace)
Settling & top-ups	add 10%

3 · The first fortnight

- [ ] Watch the space for one whole day and count the hours of direct sun
- [ ] Check every pot has a drainage hole — no hole, no plant
- [ ] Balcony or roof: confirm permitted loads and pot spots with building management first; keep fire escapes and exits clear
- [ ] Look up **your local planting window and frost dates** before you sow or plant anything out
- [ ] Water until it runs from the drainage hole — then tip ordinary saucers out
- [ ] Check daily in warm weather; keep seedlings and new transplants evenly moist
- [ ] Feed only as your mix and fertilizer labels direct; check whether the mix already has fertilizer
- [ ] Write down what you planted and when — memory is not a garden record

Your first three pots

CROP & VARIETY	POT SIZE	SUN THERE (HRS)	WHERE IT GOES · DATE PLANTED

WHERE THIS SHEET COMES FROM

The Container Garden Starter Pack — an eighteen-page printable planning system plus eight postcard-size cue cards, in US Letter, A4, and a screen-friendly edition.

WHAT THE FULL PACK ADDS

- Planning sheet, layout map, and two filled-in worked examples
- The full pot-size guide, potting mix worksheet, and shopping checklist
- Inventory, planting, watering & feeding, and harvest logs

Get the full pack: therootedalmanac.com/products/container-garden-starter-pack/ — and remember that timing and crop choice vary by climate; check your local frost dates and a trusted local source, plus your building's rules, before deciding.