

Planting up a container

Growing plants in a tub or trough is a great way of bringing the garden nearer to your front door and raises them up off the ground so they are easier to enjoy during the winter months when you don't want to venture too far.

What you need:

A container - I used a plastic trough 70cm long by 30cm wide; choose one with drainage holes in the base

Some broken pieces of clay pot

Compost - I suggest a peat-based multipurpose compost
with added John Innes



Plants - for ideas, take a look at my website <http://www.plantsforsmallgardens.co.uk/search.asp?keyword=Pots+and+containers>

What you do:

It's best to position your container in the place where you want it to be before you begin planting as filled tubs can get very heavy.

Cover the drainage holes in the base with pieces of broken clay pot— this allows the excess water to drain without washing the compost out with it.



Fill your container about 2/3 full with compost and then place your plants to see how they look. If the container is going against a wall, I tend to put taller ones at the back and have a few trailing ones along the front to soften the edges.

When you're happy with how it looks, carefully take the plants out of their pots and fill around them with more compost until it's about level with the top of the container, firming with your hands just enough to hold the plants in position.



All that's left now is to give the trough a water to settle the compost in around the plants.

And don't forget the great thing about containers is that if any plants outgrow their space, they can be dug out and replanted in the garden and replaced with others.