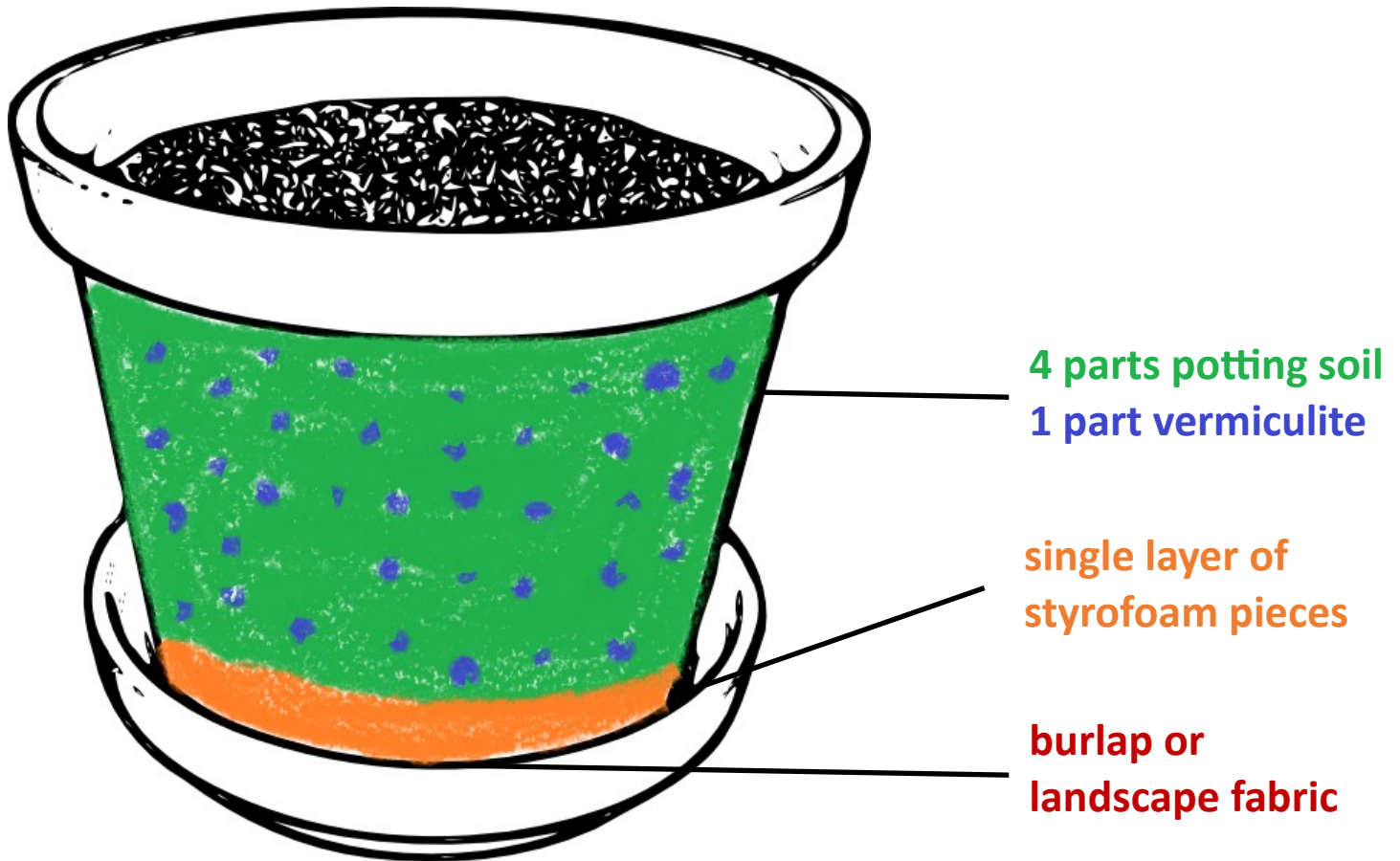


# DIY Container Garden



- 1. Pick the Right Pot.** Choose an appropriate sized container for what you plan to grow. Smaller pots (10-14 inches in diameter) are great for herbs while larger pots (up to 24 inches in diameter) can accommodate larger vegetables like squash.
- 2. Cover the Holes.** To ensure proper drainage, select a container that has holes in the bottom. If your container does not have holes, use a drill to add a few. Line the container with landscape fabric, burlap, wire mesh or plastic screening to keep soil in while allowing water to seep out.
- 3. Encourage Proper Drainage.** Add a single layer of broken pieces of Styrofoam or packing peanuts (not the biodegradable ones that melt away in water). This is also a great filler for larger pots!
- 4. Fill It Up!** Choose a good quality soil (preferably organic) that has a blend of soil and vermiculite OR mix potting soil and vermiculite in a 4:1 ratio. Don't overfill the container! Stop when it is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- 5. Add Plants.** Place plants of choice on top of the soil. You don't need to dig down or press on the plant.
- 6. Top it Off.** Once plants are in place, add more soil to cover the roots and to finish filling up the container.
- 7. Keep it Happy and Hydrated!** Some plants need full sun while others prefer more shade. Be sure to place your container in the appropriate location for what you're growing. Also, container gardens don't hold moisture as well as traditional gardens so check your plants daily and give them water as needed.

# Care Instructions

## Sunlight and Positioning

Yellow Bell Pepper and Basil prefer full sun, 6+ hours, while Flat Italian Parsley prefers partial shade, 3-6 hours.

To keep all of the plants happy and thriving, position the pot so that parsley is on the shadiest side.

As pepper plants mature, they will require some form of support to prevent it from hanging over the pot. You can use metal, bamboo or wooden stakes. Use strips of cloth to loosely tie the plant to the stake.

## Watering

How often you need to water your plants will depend on various factors. Stick your finger into the soil and if it feels dry, water it; if it feels moist, skip watering and check again the next day. Water slowly and stop watering as soon as you see a drop of water coming out of the drainage hole.

# Container Gardening Resources

[content.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-create-a-container-garden-for-edibles-in-the-north-carolina-piedmont](http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-create-a-container-garden-for-edibles-in-the-north-carolina-piedmont)

[gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/publications/](http://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/publications/)

North Carolina Extension Gardener Handbook by NC State Extension

Landscaping with Herbs by James Adams

The Southern Gardener's Book of Lists: The Best Plants for All Your Needs, Wants & Whims by Lois Trigg Chaplin

Right Plant, Right Place by Nicola Ferguson

Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs by Claire Kowalchik and William H. Hylton



Container Garden For Edibles

## Ask a Master Gardener!

Wake County Master Gardeners are on call Monday-Friday from 9am-12pm and 1-4pm to provide gardening advice and can be reached at 919-250-1084.

You can also email them anytime at [mgardener@wakegov.com](mailto:mgardener@wakegov.com) or visit their website at [gardening.ces.ncsu.edu](http://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu).