



# EXTENSION NOTES

from Jonathan Oakes

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Agriculture and Natural Resources  
extension.ca.uky.edu

## Container Gardening Can Turn Small Spaces into Great Gardens

Source: Rick Durham, Department of Horticulture Professor

Container gardening turns even the smallest balcony or stoop into a pocket-sized farm. If you rent an apartment, battle heavy clay soil, or just prefer vegetables closer to the kitchen door, planting in pots lets you sidestep many headaches that come with traditional plots. The method also works for those with limited mobility as containers can sit on a sturdy table or a rolling platform,

bringing those veggies up where bending and kneeling are not required.

Pots let you match each crop to its favorite microclimate. A lettuce tub can chill in afternoon shade, while an eggplant basks beside a sun-soaked brick wall that stores extra heat. Moving crops from ground to container now and then even plays a role in crop rotation; shifting soil out of the disease cycle keeps problems such as wilt or root rot from getting a foothold.

Almost any vegetable will grow this way, yet leafy greens, herbs, bush beans, peppers, and cherry tomatoes shine. Plant breeders have created compact "patio" versions that load fruit on short stems. One large pot can hold a cherry tomato, another supports a dwarf pepper, and a shallow tray brims with spinach. Remember that every plant sharing a container must enjoy the same amount of sunlight and moisture, or one partner will suffer.

The container itself matters less than drainage, volume, and weight. Clay and wooden pots breathe, so roots rarely drown, though you'll water more often on hot days. Plastic, metal, or glazed ceramic hang onto moisture longer, which is handy during vacations but demands restraint with the hose. No matter the material, drill or punch several quarter-inch holes near the bottom and raise the base on bricks or

pot feet so extra water can escape. Dark, pint-sized pots heat up fast; keep them out of relentless sun unless you're growing chilies that adore warm roots.

Fill your vessel with fresh soilless mix, not ground soil. The bagged blend of peat or coir, vermiculite, and compost stays light, resists compaction, and comes free of weeds. Moisten it the day before planting; dry peat sloughs off water at first, so give it time to drink. Mix a slow-release fertilizer into the top few inches or plan to feed weekly with a half-strength liquid fertilizer once seedlings sport their second set of leaves.

Tall or vining crops need backup from the start. Slide a tomato cage, bamboo stakes, or a small trellis into place at planting so roots remain undisturbed later. On a windy balcony, lash cages to the railing or slip the container inside a larger, heavier planter for ballast.

Check moisture by sticking a finger two knuckles deep; water only when the mix feels dry. Soak until you see water run from the holes, then empty saucers so roots don't sit in a swamp. During blistering weather, move pots to temporary shade or cluster them together where foliage casts mutual cover.

When lettuce bolts or beans finish, pull the spent plants, toss the used mix onto a compost heap or garden bed, scrub the

container with a 10% bleach solution, and start planning the next round. With a small stash of pots, fresh mix, and a bit of attention, you'll harvest salads, salsas, and stir-fry ingredients right outside the back door—no backyard required.

Contact your local Russell County Extension office for more information on creating great container gardens.

Russell County Beekeepers Meeting – June 5, 6:00 PM at the Russell County Extension Office. Anyone interested in beekeeping is welcome to attend.

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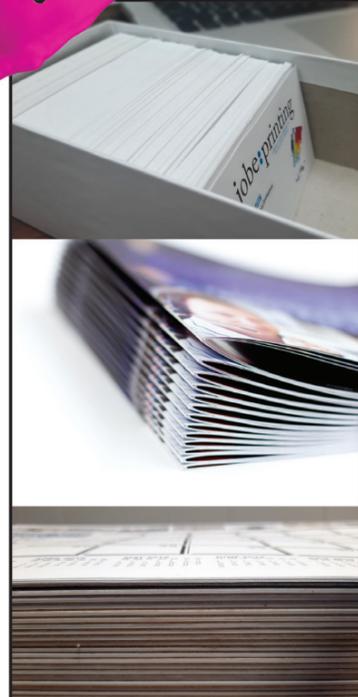


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### ORDINANCE NO. 2025-002

An Ordinance amending Ordinance NO 2008-005 relating to specifications and requirements for new streets within the city of Jamestown, Kentucky.

WHEREAS, the City of Jamestown, Kentucky desires to set certain guidelines and requirements for the construction of streets within the city limits, and

WHEREAS the City of Jamestown, Kentucky has recommended certain specifications that are to be applied uniformly regarding any future development of streets within the City, now previously granted the City, its departments, agencies, contractors or subcontractors, by ordinance or otherwise, the authority to use city property, including streets, alley ways or similar property to lay and install water lines, and

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the city council of the city of Jamestown, Kentucky as follows:

Any new streets constructed within the city limits of Jamestown, Kentucky shall meet the following specifications and guidelines:

- Right of way for any new street shall be a minimum of 18 feet.
- Total graded width of all streets shall be 18 feet.
- Streets shall have a minimum width of 14 feet for traffic purposes with an additional 2 feet on each side as a shoulder, making the total of graded area 18 feet as recommended in item 2.
- Road bed shall have a minimum of 4 inches of dense grade aggregate as a base or 6 inches if thought necessary by the Public Works Department.
- Road grade shall be crowned in center and sloped to the sides.
- All drainage culverts required under streets shall be a minimum of 15 inches diameter corrugated steel pipe.
- All drainage ditches necessary on streets shall be cut in a V shape with a minimum width of 2 feet at base of ditch line.
- After dense grade is laid down, it must be rolled firm, left for an appropriate period of time and then rolled again.
- After road bed specifications have been met, a tach coat of oil emulsion shall be spread as a primer followed by 2 inches of rolled blacktop.

THEREFORE, this ordinance shall become effective and shall become law of the City of Jamestown upon the second reading and adoption by a two-thirds vote of the Jamestown City Council and publication as required by law.

1st Reading May 15th, 2025  
2nd Reading May 29th, 2025  
Publication June 5th, 2025

Attest: Tyler McGowan, City Clerk  
Regena Hinton, Mayor