



The Right Pot for Your Plant

Practical starting sizes for vegetables and herbs.

PLANT	CONTAINER STARTING POINT	WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND
Compact or dwarf tomato	About 5 to 10 gallons for one plant	Choose a container variety and provide support.
Large, full-size tomato	About 10 to 20 gallons or more for one plant	A bigger pot makes managing a large plant easier.
Pepper or eggplant	At least 5 gallons for one plant; more room is useful	Leave room for its mature roots and foliage.
Compact cucumber	About 5 to 10 gallons for one plant	Allow space for a trellis and check watering closely.
Leaf lettuce, arugula, spinach	A wide planter with about 6 to 8 inches of usable mix depth	Space plants for the size you plan to harvest.
Carrots	About 10 to 12 inches of mix depth, or deeper for long varieties	Root length matters; choose shorter carrots for shallower pots.
Small radishes and green onions	About 6 to 8 inches of usable mix depth	Thin seedlings rather than crowding them.
Basil, cilantro, mint, oregano, thyme	Roughly 2 to 5 gallons, depending on mature size	Keep mint in its own pot; small pots need closer attention.
Established rosemary or lavender	Often a 5-gallon or larger container as the plant matures	Match a young plant's pot to its current root ball first.
Summer squash	About 10 gallons or more for one compact plant	A garden bed may be easier for larger varieties.

A little reminder: These are starting points. Match the container to the variety, mature size, and usable soil depth.