



The Greenhouse

Rita's Monthly Gardening Tip! March 2008 – Container Gardening



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The advantage of planting in containers and raised beds is that the soil warms and dries sooner than planting areas in the ground. This gives you the opportunity to start planting sooner. Containers do dry out faster so they will need more water. Plastic pots dry out slower than wood and clay. Check to make sure your container has drainage holes.

Drainage holes can be loosely covered with broken clay pieces, or screening to help slow soil loss through holes while maintaining drainage. Whether it is a small pot near your front door or a large raised bed in your backyard, keep in mind that you'll still need to make sure you have healthy soil to grow healthy plants.

This is a good time to add compost to top off your container or refill smaller ones with fresh potting soil. The more nutritious your soil the less fertilizer you will need. Mulch around your new container plants with compost or other organic material to help conserve soil moisture.