

Garden Planters & Pots Guide

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[Stewarts Smithy Patio Tub Gunmetal](#)
[35cm](#)
£6.99



All gardeners need planters. But what material, size and shape? Read on for help ...

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Garden planters



Planters come in an endless array of shapes, materials and colours

Gardening presents us with an endless array of options and considerations, and as you choose planters for your garden, you will find yourself with many things to ponder.

For those new to the gardening world, the following checklist will make the decision-making process a little easier.

Material

Planters are available in an array of materials, each (along with the type of finish) giving the planter a different look, texture and quality.

Before you make your choice, it's best to consider the climate.

Ceramic (various types of stoneware including the common terracotta pot): Not suitable for regions prone to very cold weather and snow as they might crack.

Metal (copper, zinc, wrought-iron, and stainless steel): Because metal absorbs heat, these pots can dry out plants in warmer temperatures and hot sun.

Plastic: Probably the most conducive to varying weather conditions. These lightweight pots adapt easily to cold and warm weather, don't break easily and provide good conditions for all plants.

Size

The size of the garden planter is



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Garden planters

quite important as it will directly affect how your plant grows.

A garden planter must have room enough for the correct amount of soil. Roots must have space for growth but not too much room that overgrowth will take place.

Also, the height and width of the planter must be able to sustain the size of the plant as it grows, so some plants might need to be replanted after a period of time into a larger pot.

Drainage

Soil in pots needs to drain properly just as it would in the ground. Therefore, all garden planters should have drainage holes in the bottom which will allow water to slowly seep out and not oversaturate the soil.

If you intend to place the pot indoors or on concrete or wood (such as on some decking or on a front step), put a tray or base underneath the planter.

Weight

Of course, the various materials have different weights. Consider this when choosing where the planter will sit and think about whether you'll want to move the planter or not.

Ceramic planters and pots tend to be heavier and more difficult to move. You might not want to use them on weak surfaces.

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The weight of metal planters and pots will of course depend on the type of metal. Plastic planters and pots might look heavy but are often light and easy to move.

Style

Once you've covered all the practicalities, you can consider the style you want.

Though flowers are the most important aspect of your garden, the garden planter itself does not go unnoticed, so pick something that is in harmony with the overall feel and atmosphere of your outdoor space.



Stewarts Sylvan Bell Pot 48cm
£17.99



Tom Chambers Border Basket 14in
£19.99



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Indoor planters



Surround yourself with plants all year long using indoor planters

Why enjoy your garden only when the weather allows? With the use of an indoor planter you can surround yourself with plants all year long.

Indoor planters give you the opportunity to enjoy nature in your own home, with the wonderful colours and fragrances you usually associate with the outdoors.

However, you must be prepared to dedicate time and effort towards creating the indoor garden of your dreams - but of course the true gardeners among you will be fully prepared for that!

Choose your style

There are many styles of indoor planter available. Terracotta planters and wooden

planters look just as attractive indoors as they do outdoors. Both types enable a plant to breathe, come in various sizes and can be painted to match your décor.

An added benefit of wood is that it is resistant to cold and will keep the soil at a decent temperature when indoors.

Plastic planters are a good choice for lightness and unusual shapes. Another benefit is they do not absorb the moisture from the soil and so require watering less frequently.

Ceramic planters are perfect for internal use because of moderate indoor temperatures.

Freezing conditions outside



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Indoor planters

can cause cracking but they are safe indoors. They also come in many attractive designs and colours.

Copper planters are actually best suited to the indoors. Outside they tend to bake the plant when placed in the sun, but indoors the plant can thrive.

Plants galore

There are many suitable plants for indoor gardens. With the right environment most plants will grow inside.

A few hardy ones to consider are ivy, ficus trees, Chinese evergreens, topiaries and orchids. Even miniature fruit trees can thrive indoors.

Pick the right spot

The best location for an indoor planter is near a window. Light is as important as water for plants.

Do not place the planter next to heat or it will dry out the soil as well as the foliage. Most importantly, place your planter where you can enjoy your indoor garden!

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[Elho Algarve Cilindro Plastic Planter](#)
From £3.49



[Cadix Grey Tapered Square Planter](#)
From £23.99



[Cadix Black Pot Square Planter](#)
From £12.99

Wall planters



From a plain wall to a work of mother nature's art

There is nothing like a wall planter to liven up a barren and boring wall. Whether in your home or outside, a wall planter adds texture and dimension to an otherwise flat and dull space.

Wall planters are available in a variety of shapes, sizes and materials.

When making your choice, you must first decide whether it will be an outdoor or indoor fixture. What kind of wear and exposure will the planter endure? Which types of plants will you use to fill it?

Indoors or outdoors?

For indoor planters, the choices are endless. Some people choose to liven up their walls with highly decorative planters,

and then even fill them with artificial plants or flowers to save on maintenance and mess. Others like the look of live ferns, flowers or other attractive plants.

Live plants will obviously need to be easily accessible for feeding and watering purposes. Make sure there is proper drainage in the well of the planter, but that it will not leak on floors or carpets beneath.

Also check the plant's requirements for sun exposure and pick your location wisely with that in mind.

Outdoor planters can really spruce up the appearance of a bare fence, an entrance gate or a shed wall. In fact, any vertical surface can benefit from the



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Wall planters

beauty and colour wall planters can provide - they highlight all your hard work and celebrate it.

However, bear in mind that outdoor planters need to have a carefully chosen location with proper sun exposure, not too much wind, and of course accessibility for feeding and watering purposes.

Choosing your material

There are many choices when it comes to wall planter materials. Some are metal or wire with various types of fibre lining.

They are also available in rustic materials such as rattan, raffia and banana grass. Terracotta and plastic are other popular choices.

Check the guidelines

Be sure to check the manufacturer's recommendations regarding suitability for indoor or outdoor use. Be sure that the roots of your plant have enough room to expand as they grow.

Get creative

Once you have chosen your wall planter's location, unleash your creativity.

Hanging just one can transform a wall, but hanging a group of planters on one surface can make a huge statement.

Mix and match

Perhaps you want to spruce up your shed wall by mounting four wall planters - two for vegetable plants and two for flowering plants. After all, isn't variety the spice of life? Go ahead and experiment!

Show off!

Wall planters are your chance to highlight and showcase your growing skills and they can beautify your home - both indoors and out.



[Gardman Gothic 50cm \(20 inch\) Wall Trough](#)
£11.99



[Gardman 40cm \(16in\) Woven Banana Grass Wall Basket](#)
£7.49

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Hanging planters



Learn how to make those hanging planters stay alive and looking good

We've all seen the beautiful hanging planters at the local nursery. Some of us have even tried to duplicate the effort, with varying degrees of success.

Here are a few pointers that may help in your next endeavour to create the perfect hanging planter for your own home.

Ideal solution

Hanging planters are a great way to counter a lack of ground space in a garden, among many other advantages.

You can access them from all sides so watering and weeding are easy and fast, while pets and small children do not have access, keeping your plants and flowers

nice and safe. However, weight should be a consideration - the size of the hanging planter, with the soil, plants and water, might be a problem if not hung securely.

Before you start...

First, do you have a good location available for hanging a basket? A patio shade, a window overhang, hooks and railings are all good locations.

You may have other ideas of your own. Be creative, but be cautious: electricity and water do not mix.

When you've found your ideal location, with plenty of sun, available water



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Hanging planters

source and secure hanging capability, you're ready to choose pots and plants.

Take your pick

There are a variety of hanging planters available for nearly every style. Pots that are lightweight and easily balanced are your best choices.

Metal or wire designs are popular or you can go for a more organic material such as rattan. You can even buy hanging baskets made from durable leaf material.

There are various fibre liners available and moss can be used in a pot for delicate or finicky plants.

Have fun choosing the pots that appeal to you as well as the hanging accessories that show them off. Think about the plants or flowers you will be growing and pick the basket designs that will complement them the best.

Plant choice

Make sure the plants you choose will be the right size for your planters when they reach full maturity.

You might start with flowers such as petunia or impatiens, plants such as ivy or ferns, or herbs of any kind. Strawberries, edible nasturtium and lettuces are also favourites.

Ask your local nursery expert which plants will grow best in the pots you choose.

And whether you decide to grow herbs, fruits and vegetables, flowers or grasses in your pots, a mixture might be what you're looking for.

The possibilities are endless if you use your imagination.

Make your mark

Hanging planters can set the tone of a garden for years to come. So, whether you opt for a single hanging planter or a garden full of them, your ingenuity will make your garden uniquely yours.



[Gardman Georgian Hanging Basket](#)
From £6.99



[Gardman 30cm Hyacinth Hanging Cone Basket](#)
£8.49

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Window planters



The right window box gives guests a warm welcome

A beautiful and bountiful window planter is a warm greeting to guests approaching your home or business. It can add a decorative touch to any space, whether you live in a flat or a house.

Window planters allow you to experience a garden at your fingertips - you can plant herbs to add to meals, or flowers to soften your home's exterior.

They are available in a wide variety of shapes and sizes to fit your space and your budget, which is just as well because there are many factors to consider.

Ask yourself...

What is the size of your window? Will you be placing the planter outdoors, in a

window box, or on a windowsill indoors? Will you need to move the planter in and out, or will it remain in its fixed location?

What kind of sun exposure does the location get? Is it highly accessible to you, considering you will need to feed and water the plants often?

Decisions, decisions...

Once you have answered the questions above, it is time to start investigating the many window planters available.

The available sun exposure will determine which type of plants best suit your location, and this will in turn inform your choice of window planter.



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Window planters

Be sure to select planters that have a lot of room for the roots of the plant to grow. They should be deep, but not so deep that they detract from the plants housed in them. The bottom of the window planter should have adequate drainage holes to allow extra water to seep out - this will prevent root rot.

Material choice

If you're looking for a traditional and aesthetic choice, consider a terracotta planter. Synthetic and plastic planters are also available, popular for their durability.



Elho Algarve Trough 50cm Terra
£5.99



Stewarts Balconniere Self Watering 35cm Plastic Square Planter Terracotta
£6.99



Stewarts Corinthian Trough 70cm
From £5.99

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Stewarts Balconniere Self Watering 70cm Plastic Trough Dark Green
£7.99

Wooden planters



It's hard to beat wooden planters for good looks and durability

Wooden planters are a popular choice for gardeners, mostly due to their attractiveness and durability. Here are a few things to consider before selecting one for your home or garden.

Tough but not the toughest

Planters are available in a variety of woods, including teak, cedar, cypress and redwood. Most of the woods used are extremely tough and resistant to rot and moisture, although not to the extent of certain other materials, such as ceramic and plastic.

You can help extend the life of a wooden planter by using black plastic liners (with holes punched in the bottom for drainage), painting the planter with a good

waterproof stain, sealer or paint and reinforcing the joints with rustproof nails. If you do use a stain or sealer, be sure that it is one that will not harm the plants.

Beware of pests

Unfortunately, wooden planters can also end up providing homes for burrowing pests such as ants or woodlice, so watch for signs of an infestation. Putting the planter on a hard surface instead of directly on the ground will help deter rot and keep the creepy crawlies out.

Variety of styles

Wooden planters are available in a wide variety of styles.

Even after



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Wooden planters

they've weathered they have an attractive, rustic look about them. And they can be easily painted to match your house or garden furniture.

While they are not as light as plastic planters, they are lighter and easier to move than ceramic or stone, and therefore better suited to plants that need to be moved seasonally.

The insulating qualities of wood make it well suited for warm climates and direct sunlight, where other planters might transmit too much heat to the roots and kill the plant.

At the same time, wood is a good choice for colder areas and for plants that you plan to leave out over the winter, since it will keep out frost and not go brittle in cold, as plastic might.

Plant choice

If you are growing plants that come up in vines or creepers, such as tomatoes, clematis or hydrangea, wooden planters will probably be your best choice because many of them either include a built-in trellis or can have one added with minimal effort.

Large planters can even hold an entire vegetable plot. You should choose plants that are better able to handle dry conditions: regardless of what your planter is made from, the soil in it will dry out faster than ground soil.

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[Gardman Obelisk Wooden Patio Planter](#)
£39



[Gardman Trellis Wooden Patio Planter](#)
£39



[Verandhi Grey Basket 30x30x15](#)
£13.99



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Plastic planters



Plastic planters are versatile and cheap

The versatile plastic planter has come of age as the easiest, most cost-effective solution to container gardening since the lowly clay pot.

While selecting a container depends to a great extent on intended use, plastic and resin containers offer a wide variety of colour, size and shape options to provide the solution to any planting requirement, from coddling the smallest African violet to cultivating the largest bush tomato.

All shapes and sizes

The average plastic container is often a two-piece affair, consisting of a main pot partnered with a catch-basin for water overflow, protecting delicate roots from the damage of over-watering.

Plastic planters are available in a large selection of shapes, from the familiar round basket with a handily built-in hook for hanging, to squares, octagons, rectangles and half-rounds for wall hanging.

Some planters are designed to hook over balcony railings, while others are intended to present inviting fragrance and colour from a window box.

Colour choice

Aside from size and shape, diversity in colour makes plastic planters an excellent choice for decorative accent pieces.

They can tie colour schemes together in the garden space or inside the



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Plastic planters

home. But be careful when choosing dark-coloured containers as, when exposed to the heat of the sun, they can cause temperatures inside the pot to become too high, which can damage delicate roots.

Light and durable

The greatest advantage of plastic containers are their light weight, durability and the sheer selection available.

For the avid gardener, plastic planters lend themselves to transplanting, as the roots tend to cling less to the smooth sides. Additionally, plastic planters are easy to move about as suits one's tastes or the availability of the sun.

Because of their variety, plastic containers are easily arranged in groups. They are a perfect choice for small-scale gardeners, as they are suitable for flowering plants as well as a variety of vegetables.

Plastic planters offer few disadvantages, but they are susceptible to weakening in extremes of heat or cold and can crack. But their variety makes them a very worthwhile option to consider, and their affordability eases the trauma of replacing them after a few years.

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Stewarts Gothic Hexagonal Plastic Planter White Stone 39cm
£14.99



Stewarts Sylvan Hex Pot 45cmr
£17.99



Stewarts Corinthian Low Planter Plastic Pot 45cm Black
£4.99

Metal planters



Metal planters can take any weather and last for years but watch out for rust

Metal planters vary significantly in cost, appearance, and durability. Before selection, review the basic characteristics to ensure the best fit for your chosen application.

Advantages and disadvantages

Metal planters offer a good number of advantages. They can be left outside year-round since they won't freeze and are durable enough to endure rough treatment.

They can last for years, if properly maintained - in fact, they often become more beautiful over time. They also retain water well and don't absorb it.

However, as with other types of container, there are disadvantages. Metal containers

can corrode or rust, depending on the type of metal and level of maintenance. They can also be heavy and expensive, and do not drain well if you're not using a purpose-built planter that comes with drainage holes.

Which metal?

Every metal has characteristics that make it suitable for different applications. Stainless steel and aluminum containers are rust-resistant. Large stainless steel containers are tough but can be heavy. Aluminum is lightweight but not as durable as stainless steel. Copper and brass containers can cost a bit more, but with care they can last for years. In addition, over time they can acquire an



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Metal planters

attractive patina, giving them a unique look. Iron and lead containers are heavy but durable.

Which plants?

Metal containers are appropriate for many plants. Large metal planters are perfect for trees and flowering plants, especially in areas where they might be near frequent traffic and receive the odd knock. Small metal planters are an attractive way to showcase beautiful herbs and flowers.

All the sizes in between can be used for vegetables - but do not use lead or lead-lined containers for plants that could be ingested.

Since metal does not absorb or drain water, where drainage is important you can drill holes an inch or so above the bottom, or line the container with rocks, broken pottery or shells. If water retention is important, metal without drainage is perfect as it is.

Location tip

Do not use metal planters in areas where they will receive direct sunlight. Metal can heat up and dry out the roots of the plants, so place the plants in shady areas or in locations where the sun shines for brief periods throughout the day.

Selected carefully and maintained properly, metal planters can give you years of enjoyment.

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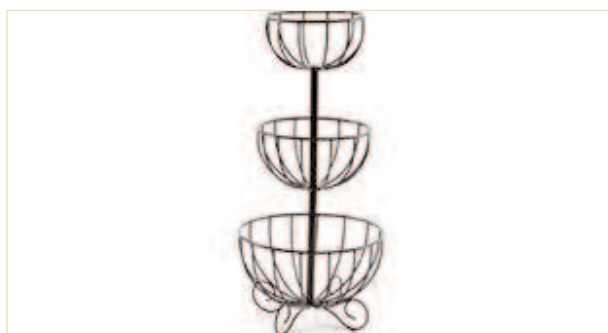
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Cadix Steel Ball Planter
From £45



Cadix Mirror Ball Planter
£45



Tom Chambers Three Tier Metal Planter
£45



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Terrazzo planters



Terrazzo planters offer a smooth style with practical sturdiness

Terrazzo is made from a mixture of cement, granite and marble, which is then sanded to a smooth finish. Planters made from this material offer supreme sturdiness and a stylish, contemporary look.

Solid and sleek

Terrazzo planters are perfect for non-hanging indoor plants and can add a touch of class to any decor.

Terrazzo's sleek lines and solidly weighted forms are a perfect complement to many modern furniture styles.

Versatile and adaptable

All kinds of plants look perfectly at home in a terrazzo planter as the surface of the

material is a good match for the organic form of plants and their foliage.

The relatively simple manufacturing process means that terrazzo planters are available in all kinds of shapes and sizes.

Smooth styling

Terrazzo is easily formed into smooth cubed vessels, regular round pots and large, sturdy fixture basins, allowing for any number of plants in whatever mix of tall grasses, perennially flowering plants, small trees or bushes you prefer.

Planter care

In extreme weather and wintry months,



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Terrazzo planters

terrazzo planters are typically covered or brought indoors. Simple care like this can protect the finish and prevent cracking in a bad frost or cold spell.

Weighty issues

There's no question that terrazzo is a recommended choice when it comes to both good drainage and heavy usage in high traffic areas.

Unfortunately, larger planters can become rather heavy when loaded down with your own personal version of biological paradise.

Moving advice

In order to make transportation and feng shui-style rearrangement easier, consider buying your deep terrazzo planters along with large, shallow basins or trays that can easily be shifted.

Alternatively, plant movers and trolleys are available to help you shift your pots around. These are relatively inexpensive and can help you in your quest to find the perfect spot for your plants.



[Cadix Lightweight Black Balcony Terrazzo Planter](#)
£35.99



[Gardman Cast Iron Pot Plant Trolley](#)
31cm (12in) Black
£13.99



[Gardman Tall Pot Stand 25cm \(10in\) Round Black](#)
£6.49

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Terracotta planters



After thousands of years, the terracotta planter remains a firm favourite

People have been using terracotta to make pots and containers for thousands of years, so it's no surprise it's an excellent material for planters.

Perfectly porous

Because they are made of clay, terracotta planters are both durable and organic.

The material is fairly weather-resistant, highly breathable and porous, so it is ideal for plants with roots requiring extra oxygen or those sensitive to over-watering.

Treated or glazed?

If the clay has been baked at very high temperatures or if the pot has been glazed, it may not be permeable to water.

So before you make your purchase, it is important to check what type of clay has been used to make the pot, and if it has been treated or glazed in any way.

Weight considerations

While suitable for many applications, clay planters do have some disadvantages.

For instance, larger terracotta pots can be quite heavy, especially when filled with soil and a plant, so they may not be ideal for big plants that need to be moved around frequently.

If you are looking for a lighter, more portable planter then you might find plastic a more suitable option.



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Terracotta planters

If you intend to keep the plant in the same location, a terracotta planter can be placed practically anywhere - inside or outdoors. Keep in mind, however, that clay planters are not frost-resistant like some other types of containers.

Natural and earthy

Terracotta planters are aesthetically pleasing due to their earthy colour and natural look. Styles can vary greatly, from intricate and decorative to simple and minimalist. They also come in a large enough variety of sizes and shapes to suit all your planter needs.

Hose it down

Some terracotta pots absorb salts and other minerals, which can form a white crust on the outside of the planter that some find unattractive. However, these minerals are easily washed away with a hose or afternoon rain.

Classic charm

So in summary, consider terracotta if you are looking for a durable and breathable planter with a classic look.

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Rhubarb Forcer
£39



Terracotta Strawberry Planter 35cm
£19.99



Terracotta Herb Planter
£14.99

How to make a strawberry planter



Strawberry planters are simple, fun and, if things go well, delicious and healthy

Building your own strawberry planter can be a simple, fun and inexpensive project and the results can be extremely rewarding – and more to the point, delicious and healthy, too.

Almost any container will do for planting strawberries but if you build your own then you can be sure you'll have a planter that will suit your needs perfectly.

How to make a strawberry planter

Building your own strawberry planter can be a simple, fun and inexpensive project and the results can be extremely rewarding.

Almost any container will do for planting strawberries but if you build your own then

you can be sure you'll have a planter that will suit your needs perfectly.

Choose a location

First, you must decide where you would like your planter to sit.

Location is important to strawberries as they prefer sunny environments, and it will also influence the design of your planter.

Strawberry pyramid

Either in the garden or on a patio, one of the most popular options is constructing a strawberry pyramid.

This type of planter will last a



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How to make a strawberry planter

long time and is reusable, while adding a decorative touch to your outdoor area.

Almost any material will be appropriate for construction, though popular materials include bricks, large pots and aluminium circular rings.

The main idea is to build your strawberry planter with a large base and many tiers to prevent things from eating the plants, and also to prevent the plants from becoming tangled amongst themselves.

This makes the berries more accessible for picking, and keeps them off the damp ground.

The sack method

For a patio or decking, one popular method simply requires a large sack or pop-up bag for gathering garden debris.

Any size will do, though it should preferably be around 40x40cm in height and diameter.

To construct, simply fill the bottom of the bag with approximately 5cm of sand or gravel, then continue with potting soil for another 5cm.

From here, begin cutting holes into the sack that will allow for the strawberries' leaves to come out from inside.

Create two levels of evenly spaced openings, no closer to each other than about 10cm.

Fill the planter to the first level with potting soil and insert your strawberry plants from the inside, gently pulling their leaves through the opening.

Do the same to the second level, and finally plant two or three on top.

This design is very simple, inexpensive, and creates a desirable tiered system that will prevent insects and dampness from destroying your strawberries.

The hanging option

Hanging containers are also worth considering as strawberries can expand downwards, and there is no danger of them being trampled or eaten. Use a sack such as the one in the aforementioned design, or a large basket with holes.

Once filled with potting soil and planted with strawberries, the container should be suspended in a sunny place by rope or chain.

Good, healthy fun

There are endless possibilities for creating your own strawberry planter, from using old barrels to tyres and baskets.

Anybody can create one, and it is a fun project for children to get involved in, too.

What's more, fresh, undamaged strawberries are a delicious and healthy treat that can be grown with little cost or labour.

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