



# CONTAINER GARDENING

WITH JONATHAN LUCKHURST





# Types of Gardening:

## Traditional

### PROS

- Affordable
- Easy to increase the size
- Larger harvests

### CONS

- The soil needs to be worked and improved
- The ground is frozen in spring
- Pests can more easily access your crops
- More weeds
- More bending/labour





# Types of Gardening:

## Raised Beds



### PROS

- Build to fit space
- Self watering
- Start with ideal grow-mix
- Fewer weeds
- Fewer pests

### CONS

- Harder to move (large)
- Can be expensive
- Takes time to build







# Types of Gardening: CONTAINERS



## PROS

- Garden anywhere
- Convenient
- Easy to start
- Ideal grow mix
- Easy to move:
  - Follow sunlight
  - Avoid bad weather
- Very little weeding
- Fewer pests
- Fairly inexpensive





## About CONTAINERS

### CONS

- More watering
- Sometimes need to re-pot
- Gets cold faster
- Not ideal for large harvests







# ANY SPACE WILL DO

- Window
- Balcony
- Deck



**Choose  
Your Location**







# ANY SPACE WILL DO

- Backyard
- Sidewalk
- Go Vertical

**Choose  
Your Location**

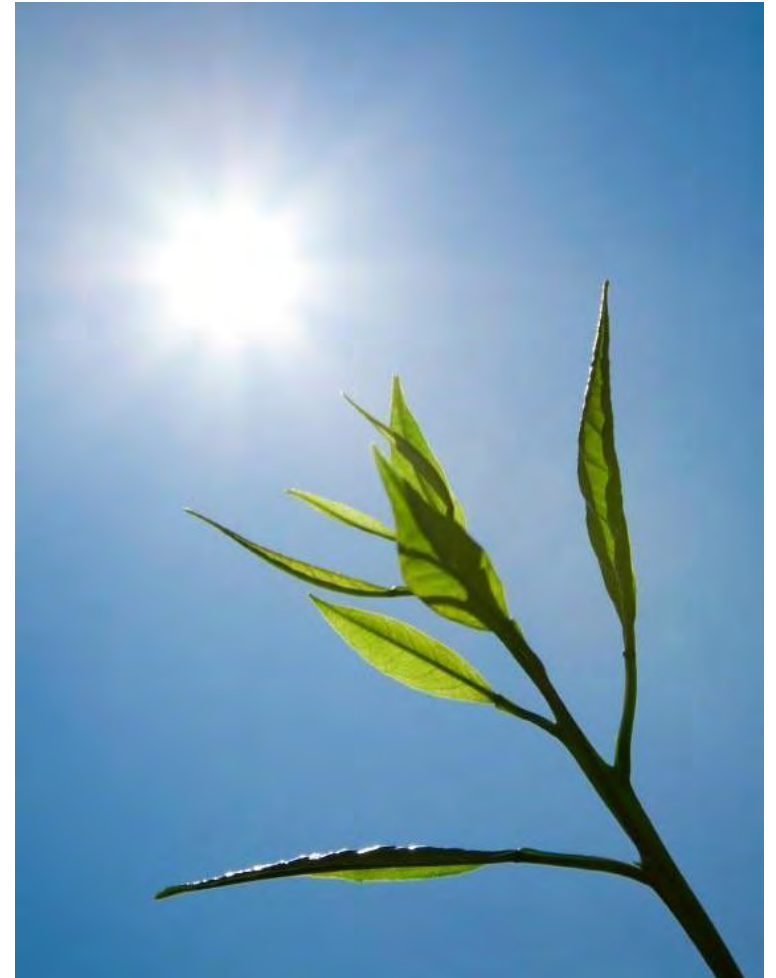




## Choose Your Location

### LOOK FOR FULL SUN

- 8 hours of sun  
(6 will do)
- Midday sun is the strongest
- Avoid shade
- If needed, grow shade tolerant plants





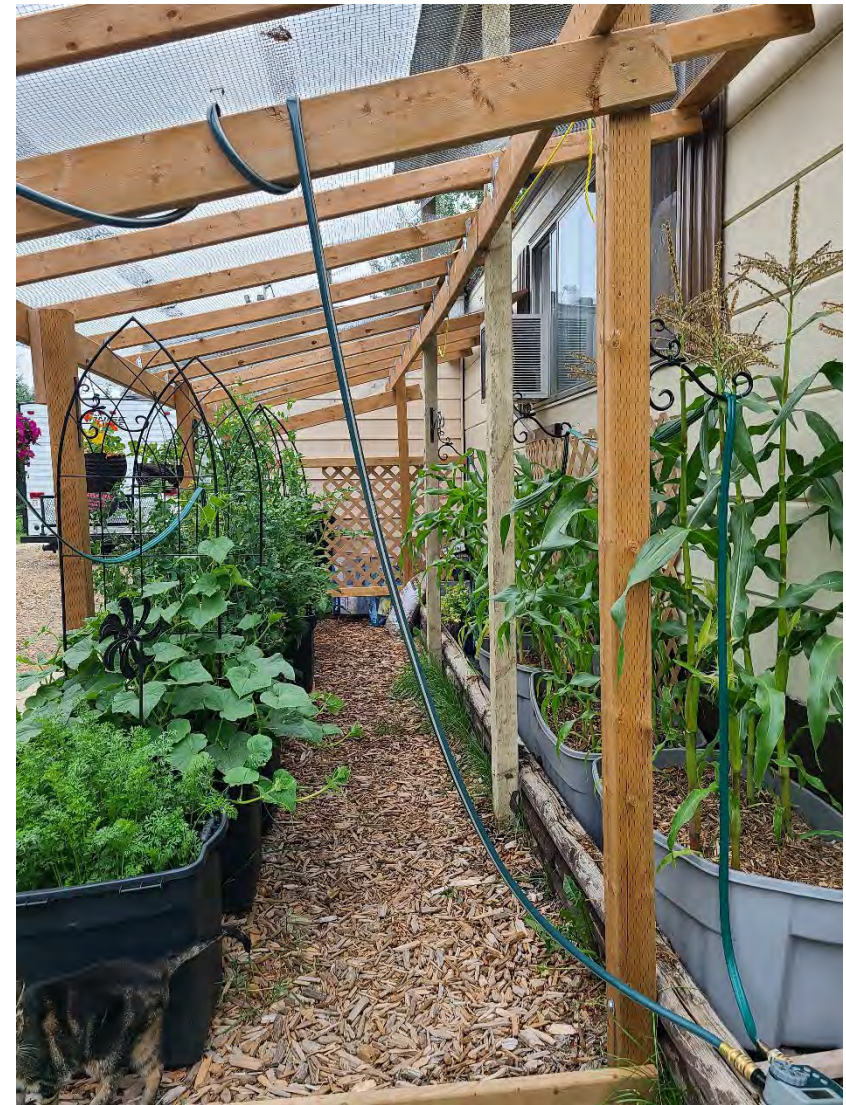


# WHAT CAN YOU GROW?



## IN FULL SUN

- Cucumbers\*
- Eggplant
- Garlic
- Peppers
- Radishes
- Squash
- Strawberries
- Tomatoes
- Turnips
- Zucchini



**Its mostly about space.**





# WHAT CAN YOU GROW?



## LIGHT SHADE

- Beans
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Chives
- Green Onions
- Kale/Greens
- Lettuce
- Onions
- Parsley
- Peas
- Potatoes
- Rhubarb
- Spinach





## NEW OR REUSE

**Choose  
Your  
Containers**







# Choose Your Containers

LARGER IS BETTER







# POTTING MIX

## About Growing Mediums







# Starting Your Plants



## TRANSPLANT OR DIRECT SEEDING

### Transplanting

- Get a head start - plant seeds indoors then transplant them
- Some plants do not transplant well

### Direct Seeding

- Plant to the correct depth
- Keep the soil moist
- Thin the plants







# Taking Your Plants Outdoors



## HARDENING OFF YOUR SEEDLINGS

- Start with 2 hours the first day
- Slowly increase by 2-4 hours per day
- Avoid direct, hot, midday sun
- Avoid freezing temperatures







## How Many Plants?



# SPACING DEPENDS ON THE CROP

...and the size of the container

Examples: How many fit in a square foot of soil

- Leafy greens, herbs – 4 plants
- Vine Tomato – 1 plant
- Cucumber – 2 plants
- Peppers – 1 plant
- Beets – 16 plants
- Carrots -16 plants







# WATER FREQUENTLY OR AUTOMATICALLY

Containers  
Need More  
Watering





# Plant Food



## FERTILIZERS EXPLAINED

What are those three numbers on the package?

- **Nitrogen** – important for vegetative (leaf and stem) growth
- **Phosphorous** – important for flowering and root development
- **Potassium** – important for development of fruit (improves yields)







## Plant Food

# ORGANIC OR SYNTHETIC?

## Organic fertilizers

- Broken down by microbes
- Slow release is good



## Synthetic (man-made) fertilizers

- Give a quick hit of nutrients
- Can harden soil growing mediums over time





# Plant Food



## FEEDING DEPENDS ON THE CROP

### Leaf greens and herbs

- need a lot of Nitrogen



### Fruiting crops

- need Nitrogen while they grow stems and leaves
- need more Phosphorous and Potassium when forming flowers and fruit



### Root and bulb crops

- need less Nitrogen and more Phosphorous



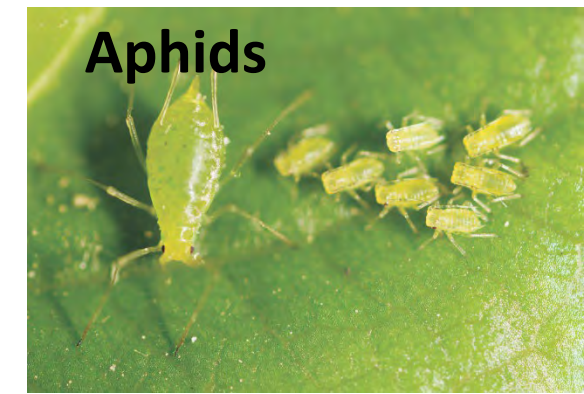




# Problems With Pests

## KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

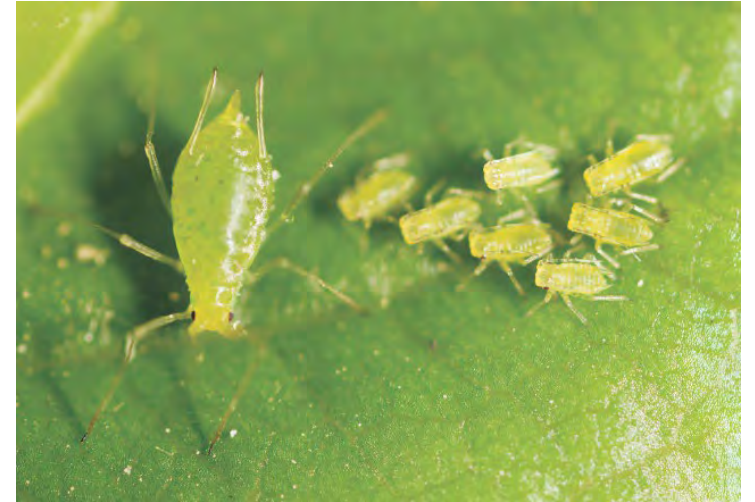
- Inspect regularly
- Check top and bottom of leaves



## Pests – What to Do

### BUGS - WHAT TO DO

- Mulch heavily
- Handpick & destroy
- Use insecticidal soap  
(Make Your Own  
Insecticidal/Oil Spray)
- Last resort – pull out crop  
and destroy







## Pests – What to Do

### SLUGS - WHAT TO DO

- Handpick early in the morning
- Use wood planks



### POWDERY MILDEW

- Improve air flow
- Cut back foliage







## Future Workshops



Watch for more gardening workshops coming to Fort Chipewyan!





**Special Thanks  
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