

Someone was asking me about vegetables types and varieties for patio gardening.. here is the list I compiled for a few possibilities..

Artichoke:

You will need a whiskey barrel sized pot. May I suggest "Violetto"?
<http://www.territorial-seed.com/>

Bean: Pole -

Get a 5 gallon bucket or a window box and set it on the deck. Run rough string (baling twice type) from the rim of the bucket up the wall and tack it there well. I dont know about your apartment/building, but I could potentially have 2 window boxes side by side and that would give me 4 feet of space and then run string to the roof overhang of my balcony deck. You might as well have colour as you wont have quantity. I suggest "Dragon Tongue" which is cream with pruple stripes as we may not get ALOT from our balconies and porches, but we may as well have unusual and c olourful.
<http://www.territorial-seed.com/> and <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/> has them. A couple catalogs have a bean seed mix and get muliple colours from one planting.. you might plant 5-6 of them in a 5 gallon bucket or 3-4 inches apart in window boxes.

Beets:

It would probably be in your better interest to grow them for the tops rather than the root. You can get crop after crop of the tops.. and I cant see 'wasting space' for the few beets you will get until you pull them at the end of the season and then you will get a meal out of them. I would rather use the space for carrots or something. Beet varieties suggested for tops (which will hold better than spinich and wont bolt) are
"Bull's Blood" <http://www.territorial-seed.com/> or
<http://www.seedsavers.org/Home.asp> or "McGregors Favorite".

Celery: I have grown "Ventura" for years from <http://www.territorial->

seed.com/ and they did excellent on my balcony last summer. There are also red and yellow varieties of celery.. I would suggest checking out <http://seedsofchange.com> as well.

Cucumbers:

Choices... Choices.. For green ones.. "Homemade Pickles"

<http://www.territorial-seed.com/>

for white ones "White Wonder" <http://www.seedsavers.org/Home.asp> or

yellow "Lemon" <http://www.cooksgarden.com>

See if you can use a tomato cage (or stack 2 cages.. top ring to top ring and wire them together well, which is what I did last year) or chicken wire.. or build a rustic twig trellis to let them climb on.

Corn:

Yes, there is a variety you can grow in containers "Blue Jade (aka Baby Blue)" <http://www.seedsavers.org/Home.asp> it grows 2-3 ft tall and produces 3-6 ears per plant.

Eggplant:

OK, you gotta grow this one.. it is just gorgeous!! "Listada de Gandia" it made the cover of SSE catalog this year. But I have grown the glamorous "Rosita" both are in <http://www.seedsavers.org/Home.asp>

Lettuce.. which one CAN'T you grow in a pot. I like SSE for the rich variety they have in their catalog. There are well over 350 kinds of lettuce. My personal favorite is "Yugoslavian Red Butterhead" but try lettuce mixes from Cooks Garden. <http://www.cooksgarden.com/>

Pea:

"Tom Thumb" from SSE <http://www.seedsavers.org> great for pots and containers. Cold tolerant down to 20F. can be grown for a table centerpiece.

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Tomato - Try it.. whatever variety you have. I have had great results with "Stupice", "Large Red Cherry" and "Silvery Fir Tree".. try cherry tomatoes. I am growing about 8 kinds this year.

Flowers: I have tulips, daffodils, sweet william.. butterfly mix, hostas, nastursiums and calundula on the go on my balcony.

Watermelon or other melons.. I did it last summer.. try one.. keep them to 3 fruits per plant. I did "Moon & Stars". Try a muskmelon. How about "Charantais"?

My mom raises lemons, oranges, limes and pineapples in her home in Oregon. I have a friend here in zone 2/3 in BC who has oranges in pots in her kitchen as well as 40 pineapple plants after I taught her how to grow them. I have only a mere 4 on the go.

If you think it might work.. try it.. be creative.,. use odd containers., I am saving my olive oil cans for pepper plants. How about a old watering can? a Boot for herbs? use sets of 3.. 3 sizes of terra cotta.... 3 concrete tiles of various sizes...put the taller ones in the back. Use an old teapot and glasses or pitcher and glasses. Look through flea markets, garage sales .. junk at the dump..

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