

## Where should your garden go?

- ◆ **Think Location:**  
 Make sure there is plenty of sunlight (at least 6 hours daily), well-drained soil, and distance from large trees to prevent competition for soil moisture and plant nutrients.
- ◆ **Check the Soil:**  
 Fruits and vegetables grow best in fertile, well-drained soil. When container gardening, make sure there are holes in the bottom of the container. To enrich the soil, add organic matter: compost, manure, peat moss, or decayed ground bark.
- ◆ **Think Size:** The garden's size will depend on the kind and amount of fruits or vegetables desired. A manageable size for a beginner garden is roughly 100 square feet. Of course, smaller or larger spaces can be used!



Small space gardening is a great way to introduce yourself to gardening, growing your own fruits, vegetables, and herbs in a cost effective & manageable way. Examples of small scale gardening include:

- ◆ Container Gardening
- ◆ Raised Bed Gardening
- ◆ Vertical Gardening

Plants that do well in pots include: herbs, spinach, lettuce, radishes, beans, tomatoes, peppers, or cucumbers. April is great time to get planting started!

## Sprouting Bean Seeds & Summer Plant Care:

1. Materials needed: a small plastic bag, a bean seed, and a damp paper towel or cotton ball
2. Wrap the wet cotton ball/paper towel around the bean seed, place it in the plastic bag, zip it shut, and let it sit somewhere warm for 8-10 days to allow the seed to germinate.
3. Once the seed has germinated you may fill a 8-12" pot, minimum, with rich soil. Make sure the pot has holes on the bottom to ensure proper drainage. To help drainage, add 1 inch of gravel at the bottom of the pot before adding soil.
4. Now carefully remove the seed from the bag and plant it 1 inch deep in the soil. When planting more than 1 seed, leave 4-6" between each seed.
5. Keep your bean plant inside until the outdoor daytime temperature reaches 75 degrees.
6. Place in direct sunlight for 8 hours/day.
7. Keep an eye on how fast the soil dries out. Container gardens usually need water more frequently.
8. Check your seed packet for specific harvest information. When ready, pinch or snip pods off & enjoy!



*This month we will be sprouting green bean seeds in our classrooms and learning about how to take care of our bean plants!*



Every month, the AmeriCorps Farm to School program shares a "Harvest of the Month" presentation with students. They become familiar with different foods that are produced or grown in the area. They are also exposed to healthy, fresh foods and learn that it is fun to try new things. These foods will be incorporated into the lunchroom menu. For more information about this program please contact Jane Schaaf (jane.schaaf@ces.uwex.edu). Visit [www.driftlesswisconsin.org](http://www.driftlesswisconsin.org) for more information on local farms and foods. Funding for this newsletter was provided through a 3M community grant and Healthy Roots.