



## Gardening Fun Patch Program

A container garden makes a great first garden project. All you need is something that can hold soil with small holes in the bottom for excess water to drain. Making a container garden can be a great way to easily grow your favorite flowers or herbs. It's versatile and relatively weed free. If you are limited on space, container gardens can help you enjoy learning about plants.

### Girl Scouts will earn their patch by:

1. Learn about what plants need for growth and development. How does each item below aid in plant growth? Water, Air, Light, Nutrients, and Place to grow.
  - a. [How Plants Grow](#)
  - b. [How Does A Seed Become A Plant?](#)
  - c. [Plant Growth Conditions](#)
  - d. [What Makes Plants Grow: Plant Growing Needs](#)
  - e. [Sesame Street: Grover Talks About Plants](#)
2. Decide what type of garden you want to plant: Herb, flower, vegetable, tomato
  - a. Gather your containers and ensure they have drainage holes at the bottom.
  - b. Pick out your plants. You can start your garden by planting seeds or by selecting young seedlings. If you are planting several different types of plants in one container, make sure they have the same sunlight and water requirements and that your container is large enough for all the plants.
  - c. Pick out your potting soil. You will want to use a well-draining potting mix that absorbs water but also drains well. Don't use soil from the yard or garden, because it likely drains poorly and may contain plant disease organisms.
3. Decorate the outside of your container with paint, waterproof markers or by adding other decorations. It is usually easier to decorate before you add soil.
4. Line the bottom of your container with small rocks or newspaper to keep the soil from draining out
5. Moisten your soil before placing it in your bucket.
6. Place your soil in your container and plant. If you are planning on planting seeds, add soil to about 1 inch below the rim then follow the directions listed on the seed packet. If you are planting seedlings, add soil until reaching the size of the seedling pot plus about 1 inch.
7. Gently water your new garden until water begins to drain from the bottom. Place your containers in a spot to match your plants' sunlight needs.
8. Enjoy! Check on your container garden daily and look for changes and growth. Monitor to determine watering needs. The best way to determine when your new container garden needs water is to put your finger in the soil and check to see if it is dry. Also keep an eye out for pest problems and nip them in the bud early.

**Reflection:** After making your container garden, you can share the results with your troop or your family. What kind of garden did you make? Keep a log of the growth of your plants and share with your troop later.

**When you're finished:** Congratulations, you have earned your fun patch! You can purchase at <https://gsksmo.doubleknot.com/event/patches/2747743> for \$1.50 each.

